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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 37th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 12 December 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Park Hae-yun (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Republic of Korea)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Safety and security of United Nations personnel

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

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00-79193 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/494 and A/55/658)

1. **Mr. Sevan** (United Nations Security Coordinator) said that, only hours earlier in Islamabad, Pakistan, a large group of rejected refugees or asylum-seekers had forced their way into the compound of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and had temporarily taken one person hostage. That was only the most recent of the growing number of incidents that threatened the safety and security of United Nations personnel. Introducing the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/55/494), he noted that staff security significantly affected the ability of United Nations organizations to operate. In the past six months, six staff members had been brutally murdered; all those tragedies could have been avoided. Enhanced security measures in all field operations of the United Nations system were urgently needed, as United Nations personnel had become easy targets for abuse, kidnapping and murder with impunity. Of the 198 civilian staff members killed since January 1992, 177 had been murdered; since January 1994, 242 United Nations personnel had been kidnapped. Civilian staff were sent into high-risk situations with no security training and no communications equipment.

2. It was time to stop hiding behind the argument that the host Governments had the primary responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations personnel, since such personnel were sometimes sent to areas where there was no governmental authority, where the host Government could hardly protect its own personnel or where vehicles and communications equipment were not available. The situation had become untenable; it seemed that staff members killed in the line of duty were forgotten almost immediately, as were their families, whom the Organization failed to assist in any way.

3. The Secretary-General's report reflected the results of the studies conducted by two internal task forces and an external team of experts and described the shortcomings of the current security management system. It also outlined some of the measures that had been taken and were under consideration to improve staff security, and listed the names of staff members who were detained or missing. All that information made it clear that the General Assembly must take urgent action to provide long-overdue funding for staff security measures. He was very surprised that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) considered the Secretary-General's report unclear, and wondered how many more staff members would have to die before Member States took the issue seriously.

4. In the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, only eight Professional-level staff members managed and coordinated security arrangements for over 70,000 staff members and dependants at over 150 duty stations. Of those eight posts, only two were funded from the regular budget; the rest were funded by a patchwork of funding sources and organizations. The result was a lack of stability and the Security Coordinator had little control over the individuals assigned to his Office. After the payment of staff costs out of the Office's $600,000 annual budget, only about $200,000 was left for security arrangements; that amounted to some $1,300 per duty station, which would not even pay for round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to most locations. Moreover, the Office's $600,000 budget was only four times the cost of the annual contract for the team of dogs used for security purposes at Headquarters.

5. The Secretary-General was proposing that the Office should consist of 18 Professional staff members and that the post of United Nations Security Coordinator should be established at the Assistant Secretary-General level. That would ensure that, in a rank-oriented organization such as the United Nations, the executive heads would pay due attention to the Security Coordinator's advice. The Secretary-General also proposed that the Office should be funded entirely from the regular budget. That would redress the current situation in which security arrangements could be held hostage to funding whims and in which there was no chain of command.

6. An adequate number of Professional-level field security officers was also critical. Currently, only 60 such officers were assigned to 39 duty stations, whereas some 80 duty stations were considered high-risk. Moreover, the administrative red tape involved in the current inter-agency funding of those posts could result in delays of up to 13 months in deploying field security officers. The Secretary-General proposed that all such posts should be funded from a single, sustainable, centrally managed source; that the officers should be recruited, appraised and managed according to uniform criteria; and that the number of field security officers should be increased to 100.

7. The Secretary-General also proposed that security training should be provided to all staff members before they were deployed, since many humanitarian workers spent more time than military personnel in high-risk situations. Currently, his Office was providing security training at high-risk duty stations using resources from the trust fund for staff security. However, such training should not continue to depend on voluntary contributions. The Organization should also provide training and stress counselling to help staff members to cope with the realities of their work environment.

8. The security management system appeared to have broken down because there was insufficient communication, no chain of command and no accountability. Many duty stations did not even have lists of their staff members. A system of minimum operating security standards should be instituted, which would establish criteria for determining when security concerns warranted the suspension of operations. For example, the Security Council was currently considering a draft resolution on increasing sanctions against Afghanistan, which, if adopted, could put United Nations personnel at risk. The Security Coordinator would then face the dilemma of whether to authorize the continued provision of much-needed humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan or whether to withdraw United Nations personnel from that country in response to security concerns. The lack of communications equipment was another major impediment to security management. Currently, only 34 of the 150 duty stations had round-the-clock communications capability. Moreover, some Member States prohibited or limited the use of communication systems by United Nations organizations.

9. The Secretary-General's report reminded Member States of their primary responsibility for the safety of United Nations personnel and called on them to bring the perpetrators of attacks on such personnel to justice. However, out of 192 cases in which United Nations personnel had been murdered, only three perpetrators had been brought to justice thus far. Member States were also urged to sign and ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

10. It was time to move beyond statements of political will and to approve the funds required to implement the Secretary-General's proposals. The Fifth Committee should demonstrate its commitment to staff security by recommending that the General Assembly should make those funds available immediately. Since the Organization could not afford to lose any more of its staff members to violence, it should either provide adequate funding for staff security or stop sending staff to high-risk areas.

11. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/658) on the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/494), said that the information provided in the latter report on security arrangements and coordination at the headquarters of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and in the field did not fully or clearly explain how the United Nations and other partners cooperated to enhance staff security in the field. The Advisory Committee had heard an extensive presentation by the United Nations Security Coordinator, which had confirmed its impression that arrangements in that area were not satisfactory.

12. The Advisory Committee recommended that the eight Professional posts requested for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator at Headquarters should be approved. Unfortunately, it was not in a position to make a recommendation on the equipment and other requirements just referred to by the representative of the Secretary-General. If funding requests for such requirements had been submitted, the Advisory Committee would have given them due consideration. The Advisory Committee also recommended that the requests for six P-4, four P-3 and 20 local level posts for field security services should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 13 and 14 of its report. It would revert to that issue once the additional information it had requested had been submitted. Its

recommendations in that connection were not intended to cut costs; in recent times, the Advisory Committee had invariably agreed with most of the Secretary-General's requests for personnel to provide security services in peacekeeping operations. However, in the current case, the information provided was insufficient to enable the Advisory Committee to give an informed opinion on interim support requirements for field security services.

13. After careful consideration, the Advisory Committee had decided that there was no compelling reason to recommend approval of the request for a post at the Assistant Secretary-General level, for the reasons set out in paragraph 11 of its report. It did not share the view that yet another high-level post at Headquarters would enhance the safety and security of staff in the field. While the representative of the Secretary-General had just asserted that the Organization was rank-oriented, the Advisory Committee had not reviewed the Secretary-General's request on the basis of what was required to satisfy the perceived protocol of the United Nations.

14. The Advisory Committee had also considered the role of the regular budget and cost-sharing arrangements (A/55/658, paras. 16 and 17). The Secretary-General's report was rather vague on the question of cost-sharing with respect to the $60 million in regular budget funds he would be requesting for the next biennium to implement the proposals under consideration. The Advisory Committee had been informed that the costs of security coordination and services in the field would be included in the regular budget of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee agreed to that proposal, for the reasons stated in paragraph 17 of its report, but cautioned that the principle of cost-sharing already approved by the General Assembly must be fully respected.

15. **Mr. Sevan** (United Nations Security Coordinator) said that the Secretary-General's report, which had been requested by the General Assembly, had not been submitted merely for informational purposes, but to prompt the Assembly to take action with regard to a serious problem. The expert review of the Organization's current security arrangements had found that those arrangements, as well as his Office's annual budget of $600,000, were abysmally deficient. If the Secretary-General's report was confusing, the reason was that the situation itself was confusing; the Organization's security management system must be put in order. The Secretary-General should have requested such assistance much earlier.

16. With respect to whether or not the Organization was rank-oriented, it was necessary to face facts. To expect the executive head of a United Nations organization to heed the advice of a Security Coordinator at the P-4 or P-5 level was comparable to sending a Third Secretary of a delegation to negotiate with an Ambassador. It was frustrating to be told that proposals for enhancing staff security could not be implemented until the next programme budget had been formulated and adopted, while kidnappings and killings of personnel in the field continued to occur. Not only money, but people's lives, were at stake. He and the entire staff of the Organization felt very strongly that the issue was extremely urgent and could not be postponed.

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/55/650)

17. **Mr. Yeo** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division) introduced the note by the Secretary-General on reform of the procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/55/650). The note had been requested by the General Assembly in resolution 54/19 B, in which it had decided to convene a post-Phase V Working Group in January or February 2001 to review rates and related issues and had requested the Secretary-General to collect relevant data from Member States and to report on the status of that process as a basis for determining whether the post-Phase V Working Group should be convened. He was pleased to report that, in addition to the 30 Member States listed in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's note, four more troop-contributing countries (Fiji, India, Tunisia and Zambia) had submitted the necessary data thus far. The data from those 34 countries were broad and representative enough to enable the Working Group to proceed with its analysis. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the note, the Secretary-General proposed to convene the Working Group from 15 to 26 January 2001.

18. **Mr. Chaudry** (Pakistan) said that the submission of data by 34 countries demonstrated the interest of Member States in the important exercise undertaken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/19 B. He looked forward to a productive Working Group session and proposed that the recommendation contained in

paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's note should be approved.

19. The Chairman suggested that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly should adopt the following draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

(a) *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the reform procedure for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/55/650);

(b) *Decides* to convene a post-Phase V Working Group meeting during the period 15 to 26 January 2001 to conduct a review on the issues itemized in accordance with its resolution 54/19 B of 15 June 2000 and draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.6 adopted by the Fifth Committee on 23 October 2000."

20. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 38th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 13 November 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 127: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*)

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Agenda item 117: Safety and security of United Nations personnel (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (*continued*)

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00-79478 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 127: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/55/L.15 and A/C.5/55/L.16

1. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway), introducing the draft resolutions contained in documents A/C.5/55/L.15 and L.16, said that the texts had been approved unanimously during the informal consultations and should be adopted without a vote.

2. **The Chairman** said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt both draft resolutions.

3. *Draft resolutions A/C.5/55/L.15 and L.16 were adopted.*

4. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria), speaking in explanation of position, welcomed the two resolutions, which made resources available for the operation of the International Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. The Tribunals, which were among the most innovative a[illegible]ements of the United Nations in its 55-year history, had continued to make important improvements to enhance their efficiency.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 123: Human resources management (*continued*)

Safety and security of United Nations personnel (*continued*) (A/55/494 and A/55/658)

5. **Ms. Dantoine** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, shared the concern of the Secretary-General and staff of the United Nations at the unacceptable violence perpetrated against United Nations personnel working to help those in greatest need. The European Union supported the Secretary-General's initiative to enhance the safety and security of United Nations personnel, and the Committee must agree on the most effective means of achieving the goal of protecting them from such intolerable acts.

6. It was particularly important to improve staff training, especially for staff assigned to difficult missions for the first time, so that they were better able to assess risks and manage crises. She noted with interest the efforts made in that area and in stress management by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator and also the Secretary-General's intention to increase the resources available for training.

7. The Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment of an Assistant Secretary-General post for the Security Coordinator and of additional posts in the field were commendable, and the European Union looked forward to discussing them in informal consultations. It welcomed the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) concerning a plan to ensure accountability for staff members and officials of the United Nations, specialized agencies and funds and programmes for the performance or non-performance of actions in security incidents. Security measures, which fulfilled an essential function of the United Nations, must come under the regular budget in order to receive adequate funding, and the costs should be shared among the various United Nations bodies which used such services. The closest possible inter-agency coordination should be ensured in that regard.

8. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that, while primary responsibility for the safety of United Nations and associated personnel lay with the parties to a conflict and with host Governments, all Member States had a collective responsibility to do their utmost to protect those who courageously put their lives on the line to provide protection and assistance in areas of conflict. Her Government was one of the few that had voluntarily supported the trust fund for the security of United Nations staff. It supported the Secretary-General's proposals in his report on the safety and security of United Nations personnel (A/55/494),

including the establishment as an interim measure of a separate post for the United Nations Security Coordinator and the creation of several new posts at Headquarters and in the field.

9. While her delegation was pleased to note that the Advisory Committee supported most of the Secretary-General's proposals for staff increases at Headquarters, it had serious concerns about the recommendation to defer consideration of the proposed field posts. The Member States owed it to the staff at risk to take all necessary precautionary measures and to be as forthcoming as possible to the Secretary-General's interim proposals.

10. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal), noting the empathy with which the United Nations Security Coordinator had championed the cause of ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel, said that the issue was fundamental to enabling the United Nations to promote peace and development effectively and to render humanitarian services. Appropriate measures must therefore be taken as a matter of urgency to secure the life and integrity of United Nations staff so that they could discharge their responsibilities.

11. The current security system, as depicted by the Secretary-General in his report, was cumbersome and completely inadequate, and was handicapped, inter alia, by lack of assignment flexibility and limited mobility. More specialized training, more communications equipment and increased access to expert advice and leadership from professional security officers could significantly alleviate the atmosphere of insecurity in dangerous situations. In the final analysis, building staff confidence would build the Organization's own confidence in championing its cause in the field.

12. The question of the security of United Nations personnel was very important to Nepal, some 40 of whose citizens had been killed in the line of duty in various United Nations peacekeeping missions. While there was an urgent need to begin improving the security system, his delegation believed that a piecemeal approach and ad hoc arrangements ultimately did more harm than good. It also believed that, while the profile of the United Nations Security Coordinator was crucial, especially in times of crisis, the Coordinator's Office could, for the reasons cited by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, be placed under the office of an existing Assistant Secretary-General.

13. His delegation supported the arrangements for cost-sharing among the organizations that used United Nations security management services. Better system-wide coordination should be ensured both in the management of funds and in actions in the field. Lastly, the United Nations must take care to ensure that the security system did not encourage "protectors" to turn into "violators" of the safety, security and dignity of those whom they were supposed to be protecting. Proper training would be extremely useful in that respect.

14. **Mr. Mohammed** (Iraq), referring to an incident that had taken place in Baghdad and which had been mentioned the previous day by the United Nations Security Coordinator, said that the competent authorities had taken all necessary legal measures to protect United Nations staff working in Iraq. An investigation into the incident in question was under way.

15. **Mr. Kendall** (Argentina) said that his country, which was one of the main troop contributors and the driving force behind the "White Helmets" initiative, was deeply involved in efforts to improve the protection of United Nations and associated staff. Since primary responsibility for the security and protection of United Nations personnel lay with host Governments, his delegation called upon all States to ensure that any act or threat of violence against United Nations staff committed in their territory was duly investigated and prosecuted.

16. Such measures were not enough, however. The United Nations had taken on new, more hazardous challenges in recent years. The increase in the number of attacks on United Nations staff was a fact. The hostage crisis in Sierra Leone, in which hundreds of peacekeepers had been captured, demonstrated the complexity of the emergencies which the United Nations had to face.

17. The current security management system must be equipped to deal with the new circumstances. Obviously, a small office with limited staff could not tackle such crises properly. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the system must be strengthened both at Headquarters and in the field. It had pledged to give due consideration to the proposals for establishing a stable financial structure to ensure

staff security and agreed on the need to adopt the interim security measures suggested by the Secretary-General in his report as soon as possible. As the report stated, the security training programmes currently financed from the trust fund for the security of United Nations personnel must not be discontinued. His delegation pledged to contribute to the fund and urged other States to do likewise.

18. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, expressed strong support for the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. As civilians became increasingly targeted in conflicts, it was not surprising that those who provided them with protection and assistance also came increasingly under attack. Regrettably, working under a United Nations flag no longer guaranteed protection. Some 198 United Nations civilian staff had been killed since 1992, 25 of them in 2000 alone.

19. The General Assembly had expressed profound concern about security incidents, but more needed to be done to protect personnel working in difficult environments. They must be given the proper training and provided with enhanced security resources. Assaults and physical violence must be investigated and those responsible must be prosecuted.

20. The Secretary-General's recommendation to establish eight posts at Headquarters under the regular budget to strengthen the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator deserved support. In view of the Advisory Committee's concerns regarding the proposal for additional field staff, further clarification should be provided as soon as possible. The delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand strongly supported the Advisory Committee's proposal to upgrade the post of the Deputy Security Coordinator. They requested the Secretary-General to provide a further detailed report on the issues identified by the Advisory Committee as soon as possible. Lastly, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes that benefited from the work of the Security Coordinator's Office had a responsibility to cooperate in that work and to share the costs.

21. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria) said that, as a regular troop contributor, his country supported any proposal that would help to reduce the incidence of attacks on United Nations personnel. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that there was an urgent need to do everything possible to ensure the safety and security of such personnel.

22. **Mr. Dugan** (United States of America) said that the safety and security of United Nations personnel urgently required serious, action-oriented consideration by the General Assembly. The Charter of the United Nations called upon staff to perform very diverse tasks, many of which had recently become fatal. If the United Nations intended to pursue its mandates, it had a duty to care for its personnel.

23. The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General were sorely overdue and Member States now had the formal opportunity to take action. The first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/645) showed that implementation of the proposals would not require additional appropriations under the 2000-2001 budget. His delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's longer-term proposals to strengthen the Security Coordinator's Office during the 2002-2003 biennium. It agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation concerning cost-sharing arrangements for the security programme.

24. His delegation supported the proposal to establish an Assistant Secretary-General post for the Security Coordinator. The job required a security professional with a strong reputation for performance, broad technical capabilities and the ability to speak authoritatively on behalf of the Secretary-General to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and host country security elements in the field. He disagreed with the Advisory Committee's view that those important functions could be carried out on a part-time basis by an official responsible for other functions as well. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) might usefully be involved in implementing the Secretary-General's proposals.

25. A draft resolution on safety of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel was to be considered shortly in the plenary Assembly. It made a strong case for the adoption of effective measures and provided a basis for moving from words to action.

26. **Mr. Sevan** (United Nations Security Coordinator) noted that many delegations had expressed support for the proposed security measures. Unfortunately, unless the United Nations was prepared to provide resources

commensurate with the task at hand, that support might prove ephemeral.

27. It would be regrettable if the United Nations made the immediate, urgent financing of security improvements conditional upon the finalization of cost-sharing arrangements, especially since the membership of the United Nations and the membership of the various specialized agencies, funds and programmes were nearly identical. The Secretary-General would indeed bring his proposals to the attention of ACC, which was following the issue closely. Nevertheless, action must be taken at the current session if there was to be any hope of maintaining coherence and discipline in the security area.

28. There was a need for staff not only at Headquarters but also in the field. As for the Advisory Committee's assertion that the functions of the Security Coordinator did not require the establishment of a separate Assistant Secretary-General post, he personally had found it impossible to devote the necessary time and effort to his mandate as Security Coordinator while performing other functions as well.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (*continued*) (A/55/305-S/2000/809, A/55/502, A/55/507 and Add.1 and A/55/676; A/C.4/55/6)

29. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/676) on the Secretary-General's interim proposals, which had been submitted on an emergency basis, for implementing the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. Those proposals would require an additional $7.5 million and 35 new posts under the regular budget and an additional $14.7 million and 214 new posts under the support account. The Advisory Committee had not finalized its report until after the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee had issued their conclusions and recommendations.

30. In reviewing the Secretary-General's proposals, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the fact that a number of reviews and studies on the follow-up to the Panel's recommendations would become available in 2001 and 2002. The results of those reviews and studies would clarify what was required to implement the Panel's recommendations. Moreover, although the Secretary-General had described his proposals as an emergency request, their urgency in terms of operational necessity had not been fully demonstrated in all cases. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had taken into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

31. The Advisory Committee had not commented on many of the Panel's recommendations, such as those concerning the relationship between the regular budget and the support account and the role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management in matters such as procurement and budget presentation, because it was awaiting the results of the reports referred to in paragraphs 4 and 8 of its report. In recent years, subjects that were best dealt with in the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee had sometimes been taken up in other intergovernmental bodies; in that connection, he drew attention to paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Advisory Committee's report.

32. The Advisory Committee's conclusions and recommendations were summarized in paragraphs 91 and 92 of its report. It had not determined in advance how many staffing proposals to recommend or defer; rather, it had examined each proposed post in the light of the justification provided by Secretariat reports and officials, and taking into account the factors outlined in its report. It had made recommendations under each budget section and departmental unit concerned and had tried to give reasons for its recommendation on each proposed post. In total, it had recommended the approval of 95 posts and the deferral of decisions on 117 posts, and had not recommended the approval of four posts. While the Advisory Committee's recommendations undoubtedly would not please all delegations in the Fifth Committee, which held widely varying views on the number of posts that should be approved, those recommendations had been based on a detailed review of the Secretary-General's proposals.

33. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt), speaking on a point of order, asked whether documents A/55/507 and

A/55/507/Add.1 had been formally introduced before the Committee.

34. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretary-General's presentation of those reports at the Committee's 32nd meeting had constituted the formal introduction of the reports before the Committee.

35. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) said that, in future, when the Secretary-General's statements before the Committee included the introduction of reports, the Committee's programme of work should so indicate.

36. **Mr. Lamek** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, recalled that the European Union had already expressed its views on the Panel's report at the Committee's 32nd meeting, when the Secretary-General had presented his emergency request, and at the meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

37. Little time remained in which to fulfil the mandate concerning the strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping which the Heads of State and Government of the Member States had included in their Millennium Declaration. Some of the Secretary-General's proposals on which the Advisory Committee had not yet made recommendations should have been implemented immediately. However, at the very least, the Committee should promptly endorse the recommendations made thus far by the Advisory Committee, since they represented a good compromise among the positions of the various delegations and reflected the compromise reached in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

38. **Ms. Johnson** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand, said that those delegations had reviewed the Secretary-General's request for emergency resources in the light of the Advisory Committee's expert recommendations and the Special Committee's views on the subject. Some of the 95 posts which the Advisory Committee had recommended for approval were in the Office of Operations, the Office of Logistics, Management and Mine Action and the Office of Military and Civilian Police Affairs. Those posts would help to strengthen key areas within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. She was also pleased that the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of two additional posts in the Electoral Assistance Division. However, she would have welcomed the endorsement of more of the Secretary-General's staffing requests by the Advisory Committee. Should the Fifth Committee approve the posts requested, the Secretariat should fill them expeditiously, with due regard to the maintenance of the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and to the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

39. She noted that the Advisory Committee had deferred its consideration of some 150 regular budget and support account posts in areas such as the proposed Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the budget sections concerning disarmament, human rights, humanitarian assistance and public information. The next phase in the implementation of the Panel's report should take place in the context of the comprehensive review referred to in the Secretary-General's report (A/55/502, para. 121), which she strongly supported. In that connection, she noted that the Advisory Committee had not recommended the approval of three posts for the establishment of a Gender Unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/676, para. 44). While she agreed on the need for better coordination and collaboration between that Department and existing Secretariat structures dealing with gender issues, she hoped that the proposal would be reconsidered in the context of the comprehensive review.

40. **Mr. Udegbunam** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those countries attached great importance to the provision of adequate resources to all peacekeeping activities. Since intensive and lengthy discussions on the Panel's report had already taken place in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Fifth Committee should not reopen the issues dealt with in that forum.

41. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed rule 153 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure and requested the Secretary-General to abide by it strictly in presenting his proposals. In the current case, documents A/55/507 and A/55/507/Add.1 should have been prepared in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee and then submitted to the Advisory Committee. The exceptional procedure followed made the financial implications

submitted by the Secretary-General difficult to understand.

42. He noted the Advisory Committee's observation that the conversion of support account posts to the regular budget, which the Panel had recommended, would be addressed in the context of the comprehensive review to be undertaken over the next six months. That review should be completed and submitted to the Special Committee as soon as possible. He shared the Advisory Committee's view that not all the Secretary-General's proposals could be classified as emergencies, the postponement of which would lead to an immediate deterioration of current peacekeeping operations (A/55/676, para. 11). The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should not be significantly revamped until the comprehensive review had been completed. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that the potential for duplication of work between political officers in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs should be eliminated.

43. He noted that the Advisory Committee had recommended the approval of 93 additional posts under the support account, whereas, in May 2000, the General Assembly had approved a total of 469 posts for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He was concerned to note that the amount owed to troop-contributing countries had crossed the $1 billion mark in August 2000, and regretted that the Panel's report had not addressed that important issue. No new request for resources should be submitted to the Fifth Committee until after the comprehensive review had been carried out and commented upon by all relevant bodies. He agreed with the Special Committee that troop-contributing countries should be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to reflect their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

44. *Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

45. **Mr. Kuchinsky** (Ukraine) recalled that, in the Millennium Declaration and in Security Council resolution 1318 (2000), the Heads of State and Government of the Member States had resolved to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the necessary resources. He therefore welcomed the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, which set a comprehensive, long-term agenda for the reform of peacekeeping activities. Since 1992, Ukraine had contributed troops and equipment to 20 peacekeeping operations and Ukrainian nationals currently participated in six operations.

46. The initial financial impact of the Secretary-General's proposals for implementing the Panel's recommendations was relatively modest in comparison to the overall level of the programme budget for the biennium and the volume of peacekeeping financing for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. The Secretary-General's proposals focused primarily on addressing critical backstopping needs by increasing staffing levels at Headquarters. Ukraine looked forward to the results of the comprehensive review requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which would enable the Advisory Committee to revert to the consideration of the staffing proposals which it had deferred.

47. The Fifth Committee had a major role to play in the gradual implementation of the Panel's recommendations which had a wide impact on the administrative and financial functioning of the Secretariat in the area of peacekeeping support, including capacity-building for the rapid deployment of missions. Currently, delays were experienced in setting up new missions because of a lack of resources and equipment and of sufficient personnel for logistical planning. The Secretary-General's next report on the Panel's recommendations should contain specific proposals for improving staffing and procurement arrangements to meet the Organization's peacekeeping demands. The Fifth Committee should approve the Advisory Committee's recommendations expeditiously so as to provide a basis for the practical implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

48. **Mr. Albrecht** (South Africa) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

49. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) reflected the various interests of Member States in a well-balanced manner, while the Advisory Committee's report on the implementation of the Panel's report (A/55/676) correctly identified the areas most urgently in need of resources. He urged the Fifth Committee to adopt the

Advisory Committee's recommendations in order to fulfil the pledge, made by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit, to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security.

50. As the representative of an African country, he wished to stress that the United Nations must be able to respond to the problems and challenges faced by Africa. A strengthened Department of Peacekeeping Operations would help to restore United Nations credibility in that regard.

51. The problems besetting the United Nations were related not only to lack of staff but also to resource management, inter-agency coordination and a host of other issues. His delegation therefore eagerly awaited the comprehensive review called for by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and hoped that organizations of the South would be involved in that process in order to ensure a balanced perspective. His delegation urged the Secretariat to ensure that new personnel were recruited with due regard for equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and countries' contributions to peacekeeping operations. No amount of structural reforms or additional resources could be a substitute for political commitment, however; the countries with the greatest means and capacity must back their vocal support for reform with active involvement in peacekeeping operations.

52. His delegation called on Member States to show the necessary commitment to addressing the twin challenges of development and peace in an equitable manner. It understood the concerns raised by some countries in connection with the Panel's report and agreed that the decline in official development assistance (ODA) was cause for alarm. However, it was the absence of peace and stability which had made it more difficult to eradicate poverty and disease. His delegation hoped that an agreement on the Panel's report would help lay the foundation for a better life in the developing world.

53. **Mr. Elgammal** (Egypt) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

54. His delegation had already outlined its position on the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. With regard to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/676), he agreed with the statement made in paragraph 3 concerning the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and hoped that those requirements would be observed in future.

55. It was important to act on the Panel's recommendations concerning the reorganization of specific structures such as the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. At the same time, his delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee that not all the Secretary-General's proposals could be classified as emergencies.

56. Since the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had made no mention of direct support for the Department of Political Affairs, he would welcome an explanation as to why the Advisory Committee was recommending acceptance of the 12 posts referred to in paragraph 49 of its report. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that there was no need to establish a Gender Unit. It was also important to avoid duplicating the functions performed by the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

57. The Fifth Committee had already discussed the proposal to establish a post at the D-2 level for the Director of the Europe and Latin America Division. His delegation agreed that the proposal should be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

58. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

59. Ghana was one of the oldest, largest and most consistent contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations and was currently involved in nine such operations. His delegation recognized that speedy implementation of the Panel's report was essential for fulfilling the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration. At the same time, it realized that more thorough analysis was needed to ensure that the report was implemented effectively.

60. His delegation understood, but did not share, the concern that implementation of the Panel's recommendations would promote peacekeeping at the expense of development and it accepted the Secretary-General's assurances in that regard (A/55/502, para. 7 (h)). At approximately US$ 2 billion, the entire peacekeeping budget was only a fraction of the US$ 51 billion raised annually from bilateral and multilateral

development assistance sources. Member States must not allow their frustration with other areas of United Nations activity to affect the implementation of the Panel's report, which would do much to improve the image of the Organization. The international community assessed United Nations effectiveness on the basis of its peacekeeping operations; moreover, it was difficult, if not impossible, to pursue sustained and sustainable development in the absence of peace and security.

61. Given the exponential growth in peacekeeping operations in recent years, it was unrealistic for Member States to expect the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to perform better without an increase in human resources. He was concerned that the Advisory Committee did not consider it urgent to ensure a properly functioning lessons learned unit. As presently constituted, the Policy Analysis and Lessons Learned Unit lacked reliable funding and proper supervision. The proposed new unit would be brought under the support account and located in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who had given assurances that he would monitor and supervise its work closely. His delegation therefore regretted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposal be resubmitted under the proposals for the support account for the period 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002; it was his delegation's expectation that the request would be given favourable consideration at that time.

62. His delegation supported the Security Council's recognition of the need to improve the Secretariat's information-gathering and analysis capacity and therefore the proposal to establish an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security. However, it accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should defer a decision in that regard and that, in the meantime, the Secretariat should continue to provide the required information and analysis using the existing structures and resources.

63. He hoped that in seeking to fill the limited number of posts recommended by the Advisory Committee, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would recruit more technical staff, including administrators and military, police, human rights and legal experts, from developing countries, which was, after all, where most peacekeeping operations took place. Such an approach would not only be in keeping with the letter and the spirit of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations but also restore confidence in the United Nations and address Member States' concerns about lack of transparency and imbalance in the recruitment of personnel. In particular, troop-contributing countries should be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The principles of transparency and equitable geographical distribution should also be observed in filling the proposed additional posts in the Electoral Assistance Division. His delegation did not subscribe to the view that electoral expertise could not be found in the developing world.

64. In view of the limited staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the key role played by military and civilian Planning Division, his delegation regretted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the consideration of resources related to the possible establishment of a new Office of Military and Civilian Police Affairs, to be headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, should be deferred. It also requested that the Advisory Committee reconsider its opposition to the Panel's recommendation for the establishment of a Gender Unit in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Ghana attached importance to the mainstreaming of gender sensitivity in public activity and hoped that women from developing countries would be given an equal opportunity to fill posts in the proposed Unit. Lastly, his delegation urged the Committee not to lose sight of the purpose of the Panel's recommendations, which was to enable the United Nations to deal efficiently and effectively with challenges to its cardinal functions of maintaining international peace and security and, by extension, development.

65. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that, in the interests of both peace and development, Member States should work constructively to implement the Panel's recommendations. Active follow-up of those recommendations was necessary in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to plan and conduct peace operations. Moreover, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building were mutually reinforcing activities. Her delegation therefore supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations as a necessary first step.

66. **Mr. Lozinski** (Russian Federation) said that the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations demonstrated the unique role of the United Nations in resolving and preventing conflicts and had been a major intellectual input to the Millennium Summit. Most of the report's recommendations were based on the collective experience of recent peacekeeping efforts and would objectively build the capacity of the United Nations in the coming century. Because many of the report's recommendations required urgent action, the corresponding reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee warranted detailed consideration. A number of the ideas put forward in the Panel's report and developed in the Secretary-General's report were all too obvious and could have been put into practice long ago, especially since similar ideas had often been put forward in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Advisory Committee. That was the case, for instance, with such ideas as the establishment of Integrated Mission Task Forces, the creation of a roster of civilian and military personnel and the introduction of focal points for the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. Such proposals should not prove controversial and the Secretariat should take practical steps to implement them.

67. The main focus of the Panel's report was the immediate solution of operational problems related to the needs of newly launched or expanded missions. The emphasis in the Secretary-General's report, on the other hand, was on building the analytical and information-related capacities of the United Nations in support of peace. His delegation trusted that the Secretary-General would deal with operational issues when he came to submit comprehensive proposals as part of the next stage of the consideration of the Panel's report, and it looked forward to the submission of such proposals in the first half of 2001.

68. The Secretary-General had proposed building the strategic planning capacity of the United Nations by setting up an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat. His delegation considered it to be of the utmost importance to strengthen the Organization's capacity in that area by increasing the level of coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system actively involved in peacekeeping operations and by integrating a number of functions within the Secretariat itself. It was important to look at the problem from all angles in order to find the most effective solution, but that would require extra time and effort. His delegation therefore agreed with the Special Committee and the Advisory Committee that the problem should be addressed the following year, once additional information and proposals had been prepared by the Secretariat.

69. Given the growth in the number and scale of peacekeeping operations and the related financial challenges and operational complexities of a number of operations, it was valid to raise the issue of earmarking additional resources. It was in that context that his delegation had considered the report of the Advisory Committee and the recommendations made therein. The Advisory Committee's proposals concerning emergency needs, particularly its recommendations on additional human and financial resources for logistics, military planning and police were balanced and fair. On the question of the proposed new Assistant Secretary-General post and the proposed reclassification of the post of the Civilian Police Adviser, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's position that those issues would be best addressed in the context of the comprehensive review of the structure of the Department.

70. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

71. It had been his understanding that the Secretary-General's presentation of documents A/55/507 and Add.1 had been made under rule 112 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which stipulated that the Secretary-General, or a member of the Secretariat designated by him as his representative, might at any time make either oral or written statements to any committee or subcommittee concerning any question under consideration by it. In that case, however, the Secretariat had failed to comply with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, as noted in paragraph 3 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/676). He hoped that in future, care would be taken to abide by all the rules of procedure, particularly, rule 153. It was also important that the Fifth Committee should confine its consideration of the issue to its own mandate, without infringing on that of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

72. He was concerned at the statement in paragraph 11 of the Advisory Committee's report that, although the Secretary-General had described the estimates

made in his reports as an emergency request, upon questioning, his representatives had acknowledged that not all the proposals in the related resource documents could be classified as emergencies. He would like the Secretariat to clarify that issue.

73. There was a general consensus on the need to strengthen peacekeeping operations, eliminate all causes of conflict and create a climate in which all peoples could enjoy peace and prosperity. However, the Millennium Declaration had stressed the importance of development as well as peace. Despite the Secretary-General's assurances that the recommendations in the Panel's report would not be implemented at the expense of development, his delegation regretted that the Secretary-General had not launched an equally comprehensive new initiative on world development.

74. **Mr. Alatrash** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country's commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law predisposed it to support the Secretary-General's peacekeeping-related endeavours. His Government had played an active role in reconciliation efforts among countries, with a view to strengthening peace and security, especially in Africa. Libyan troops continued to take part in peacekeeping missions and the Government had paid its contribution to the peacekeeping budget.

75. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) contained many excellent ideas and recommendations for the strengthening of peacekeeping operations, which would enable the United Nations to respond rapidly and effectively and to cooperate with countries involved in such operations.

76. His delegation supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee concerning resource requirements. With regard to personnel recruitment, he hoped that the Secretariat would observe the principle of equitable geographical distribution. All peacekeeping missions must be treated equally, with no discrimination in respect of financial arrangements.

77. Any delay in peacekeeping operations could have serious consequences for lives and property. It was therefore incumbent upon the Fifth Committee to respond rapidly and objectively to the requirements of United Nations peace operations, so as to enable the Secretary-General fully to discharge his responsibilities, in keeping with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

78. His delegation welcomed any proposals that would strengthen the role of the United Nations in peace operations throughout the world and that would bring economic and social development to all parts of the globe.

79. **Mr. Hume** (United States of America) said that peacekeeping reform required not only additional resources, but also a commitment by the Security Council to change the way in which it formulated mandates and the development of a stronger, more meaningful approach to consultations and briefings for troop-contributing countries. Nevertheless, improving the senior management oversight structure and operational capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would provide urgently needed support for operations in the field and would help to address the concerns of Member States, particularly troop contributors, which had rightly demanded closer consultation with senior Department officials, an expanded role in Headquarters decision-making and greater responsiveness from the top tier of the Department's leadership.

80. When tragedy struck, Member States should not have to wait while overworked personnel searched for the names of the wounded, senior government officials should not be confronted with conflicting reports from the field and Permanent Representatives should not be kept in the dark as new information came to light. In that regard, he endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning the importance of proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including at senior levels.

81. There was unanimous support for strengthening and restructuring the Department's military and civilian police capacity under the guiding hand of an experienced and qualified senior official whose responsibility lay exclusively in that area. While the Military Adviser must continue to have direct access to the Secretary-General and to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, strong leadership would significantly enhance the role and effectiveness of both the Military Adviser and the Civilian Police Adviser and would strengthen dialogue among the

Secretariat, the Security Council and troop contributors.

82. The Department's senior officials were responsible and accountable for peacekeeping operations across the globe, which, at a cost of over US$ 2.5 billion, affected the lives of millions of the most vulnerable individuals. Those officials took decisions that directly affected the security and safety of United Nations troops, civilian police and personnel. They must therefore be responsive to the needs and queries of Member States, provide advice and operational guidance to the Secretary-General and give extensive, high-quality briefings to the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. Accordingly, he endorsed the Secretary-General's request for the establishment of a new Assistant Secretary-General post in the area of peacekeeping operations.

83. Peacekeeping would be condemned to failure if Member States continued to expect 400 staff, including only 32 military and 9 civilian police experts, to support 58,000 men and women in the field and to manage 15 peacekeeping operations. His delegation supported the call for a comprehensive review of human and financial resource needs and was pleased that the Secretary-General had begun that process. It also welcomed the report of the Advisory Committee, which contained instructive, responsible recommendations on justified and properly substantiated emergency needs. While it was convinced of the need for a Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Unit, improved public information capacity, Peacekeeping Doctrine and Best Practices Unit and an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, his delegation was willing to defer consideration of the relevant proposals. At a minimum, however, emergency resources for military and civilian police, operations and logistics, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, must be approved by the end of the current year.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.

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Summary record of the 39th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
later: Mr. Hae-yun Park (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Republic of Korea)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and other related reports (*continued*)

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Capital master plan

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1: The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42: The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

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00-79743 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and other related reports (A/55/305, A/55/502, A/55/507 and Add.1 and A/55/676; A/C.4/55/6) (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that his delegation supported the statement that had been made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As a country that had been involved in peacekeeping for more than four decades, Nepal attached great importance to the role of the United Nations as the principal instrument for promoting international peace and security. The experience gained over that period had helped his country to understand the underlying causes and consequences of the successes and failures of peacekeeping operations.

2. The report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305) was both timely and useful and many, if not all, of the Panel's recommendations should therefore be implemented. At the same time, it would be imprudent to make unwarranted strides into uncharted waters. His delegation would find it difficult to accept an ad hoc and partial implementation of the recommendations contained in the report without the benefit of a comprehensive implementation plan.

3. A number of issues related to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report needed to be clarified. For example, the Secretariat had not sufficiently established the existence of an emergency that would justify its request for an additional 249 posts. With its current strength, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been able to handle a much larger number of peacekeepers than the number currently deployed on the ground.

4. The report had been prepared at a time when the developed countries had become increasingly reluctant to commit troops to perceptibly unsafe peacekeeping operations and it raised a number of fundamental questions, such as whether a top-heavy command and control structure would not impinge on the flexibility of field commanders; whether the piecemeal strengthening of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at a time when other departments were being slashed would affect the balance of the Organization; whether the Panel's recommendations, which drew on national command and control structures, had been tried and found suitable for United Nations peacekeeping operations; and whether, if indeed the increase could be justified and approved, many of the positions, including those at senior levels, would be available for troop-contributing countries.

5. It would take some time to understand those complex issues and early assistance from the Secretariat would be appreciated. While his delegation respected the expertise and experience of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), that Committee appeared to have violated proper procedures by recommending an increase of 95 posts before the General Assembly had concluded its deliberations on the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/C.4/55/6).

6. What was needed was not mutual recrimination but a rational and reasoned approach to the forging of a consensus, as well as a much better understanding of the facts and context so that Member States could act decisively on the Panel's recommendations.

7. **Mr. Dausá Céspedes** (Cuba) noted with concern that the established practices, rules and procedures of the General Assembly had not been observed in the preparation, presentation and consideration of some of the reports that had been prepared on the item under consideration. At a time when most Member States recognized the principle of respect for the different prerogatives and functions of the principal organs of the United Nations, as provided for in the Charter, others were seeking to disregard that principle in pursuit of their own political interests.

8. The preparation of the report on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/502) prior to a decision by the competent intergovernmental body on the recommendations of the Panel and the parallel presentation of that report to the Committee were serious departures from existing procedures and practices. The presentation of a report on resource requirements for implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507 and Add.1) without a prior decision by the General

Assembly on the recommendations was also a violation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Moreover, the Advisory Committee's consideration of the proposals before the General Assembly had taken a decision on them was a further violation that should be addressed by the General Assembly. His delegation hoped that there would be strict adherence to established practices and procedures as consideration of the Panel's report continued.

9. The Panel's mandate was to undertake a comprehensive review of United Nations activities for the maintenance of peace and security and to make recommendations for enhancing their effectiveness. Its mandate did not include consideration of budgetary questions, which were within the competence of the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee. His delegation noted further that the General Assembly had not approved human and financial resources for the establishment of the Panel. It would therefore welcome an explanation of how the expenditures on the Panel had been financed.

10. Many of the Panel's recommendations were based on the premise that a number of difficulties prevented the Organization from fulfilling its mission in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security and that urgent corrective measures were needed. That approach, however, appeared to change the priorities of the Organization by diverting attention from the problems of development.

11. Development and peace were indissociable and his delegation shared the Secretary-General's concern that the increase in resources for peace operations should not come at the expense of the resources needed for development (A/55/502, para. 7 (h)). The reality was quite alarming, however, since the Organization currently spent $3.50 on peacekeeping operations for every dollar it spent on basic resources for development. It would therefore be unacceptable for the meagre resources currently allocated to development to be affected as a result of the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

12. His delegation questioned the need for additional resource requirements of $22,202,900 during the current phase. A total of $76,094,700 had already been allocated for peacekeeping operations in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and 67 additional posts had been allocated to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and a further two posts had been allocated to its training service. Moreover, in its resolution 54/243 B, the General Assembly had approved 469 posts to be financed from the support account. It should be borne in mind that, while United Nations peacekeeping operations had grown in size and complexity, during the boom years of peacekeeping in the early 1990s there had been up to 73,200 personnel in the field at a time when the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had only 407 posts.

13. It had been claimed that peacekeeping was a basic function of the Organization and that many of its activities should be funded from the regular budget. His delegation's recollection, however, was that the General Assembly had been unable to reach a consensus on what constituted the Organization's basic functions. The concept of peacekeeping as a basic function of the Organization should therefore not be imposed in a budget document, particularly in view of the delicate balance of positions that had been achieved within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the question of peacekeeping priorities.

14. In its report on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (A/C.4/55/6), the Special Committee had reiterated its request for an expeditious and comprehensive review of the management, structure, recruitment processes and interrelationships of all relevant elements within the Secretariat that played a role in peacekeeping operations (para. 34). Pending that review, the Special Committee believed that some additional resources should be made available on an emergency basis for the staffing of certain units of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Fifth Committee's decisions should be consistent with the recommendations of the Special Committee.

15. His delegation questioned the efforts that were being made to convert the Department of Peacekeeping Operations into a mini-secretariat with divisions of various kinds, that would merely duplicate the functions of existing bodies. It therefore opposed any allocation of resources for that purpose. On the other hand, it did not support any recommendation that was aimed at reducing the role and capabilities of the Department of Public Information.

16. His delegation was not persuaded of the need to establish an Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat, since information and analysis needs could be fully met from existing structures. Moreover, none

of the failures of the United Nations peacekeeping operations had been due to a lack of information or analytical capacity. What had been lacking, and was still lacking, was political will. His delegation therefore noted with satisfaction that the Panel's recommendation that such a secretariat should be established had not been endorsed by the Special Committee.

17. His delegation believed further that the creation of a new post of Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations was unnecessary and that the support role which it was proposed to grant to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the human rights components of peacekeeping operations was unjustified. Lastly, his delegation did not share the view that an increase in posts for the Electoral Assistance Division was necessary.

18. **Mr. Jagne** (Gambia) said that the maintenance of international peace and security was one of the core areas of United Nations responsibility and the Organization's performance in peacekeeping was the main yardstick by which its success was measured. The Panel's report sought to find quick and practical solutions to that problem and undue delay in implementing its recommendations might complicate the problem even further.

19. The Panel had stressed the need for increased resources for the beleaguered Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which was seriously understaffed and grossly underfunded. His delegation therefore fully shared the Panel's view that Member States should give the Secretary-General some flexibility, as well as the financial resources to recruit the staff needed to ensure that the credibility of the Organization was not tarnished by its failure to respond adequately to emergencies. It also concurred with the Panel's recommendations that peacekeeping should cease to be treated as a temporary requirement and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as a temporary organizational structure. Headquarters support for peacekeeping should be treated as a core activity of the United Nations and the majority of its resource requirements should be funded through the mechanism of the regular biennial programme budget of the Organization.

20. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Advisory Committee had approved an impressive number of posts and hoped that the Secretariat would move quickly to fill them, taking into consideration the sacrosanct principle of equitable geographical distribution. While he understood the concerns of some delegations that resources might be diverted from the development agenda, it must be borne in mind that there could be no meaningful development without peace and stability.

21. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that the Panel's report made it clear that effective and predictable financial support was crucial to the success of any peacekeeping mission. His delegation fully agreed with the observations contained in the report and in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/55/1, para. 35), including the importance of joint efforts by Member States and the Secretariat to strengthen the instrument of peacekeeping; the need to understand clearly whether peacekeeping was needed in a specific situation; the importance of providing adequate resources to meet mission needs and having a credible deterrent capacity; the importance of preparedness for worst-case scenarios; the requirement to improve information flows, both between Member States and within the Secretariat; and the need for more effective and timely analysis of information from the field.

22. Concerning the need for consensus, his Government shared the Secretary-General's view that no operation could be established without a broad consensus within the international community. It was, moreover, the Security Council's responsibility to ensure that the operation was given a mandate that was clear, accepted by the parties concerned and practicable in the situation existing on the ground.

23. His delegation therefore agreed on the need to strengthen and broaden the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and strongly supported further detailed discussion on the subject within the framework of the negotiations on both the current budget and the forthcoming budget.

24. **Ms. Sun** Minqin (China) said that her delegation supported the statement that had been made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping operations was an urgent task which required not only the political will and common efforts of all parties but also the allocation of adequate resources to the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations to enable that Department to play its proper role and reach its full potential.

25. Her delegation would welcome written information from the Secretariat on the current structure of peacekeeping forces, personnel structures and the breakdown of forces, including by nationality, so that it could participate more constructively in the discussion on the item.

26. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement that had been made earlier by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Pakistan's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations was rooted in its belief that the maintenance of international peace and security was a collective responsibility. While his delegation welcomed the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, it nevertheless had serious misgivings about the manner in which the Secretariat had since pursued the implementation of the report and its failure to comply with established rules of procedure. His delegation believed further that the number of posts recommended by the Advisory Committee was excessive and warranted closer scrutiny.

27. While the Secretary-General had described his estimates as an emergency request, the proposals in the related resource documents could not be classified as emergencies. The Secretariat should therefore justify the request for such a large number of posts if there was no emergency. The cause of United Nations peacekeeping would be better served if time was allowed for the reviews and studies referred to in the reports of the Secretary-General to be carried out and considered by Member States.

28. One possible reason why the Organization had been unable to respond effectively to the challenges posed by complex peace operations was that United Nations peacekeepers had been deployed in the past without adequate advance planning and the requisite political groundwork. Senior management officials in the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had also failed to do their homework and thus bore responsibility for the current situation. The review requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should therefore include an assessment of the reasons why the senior management of the two Departments, particularly the Department of Political Affairs, had failed to provide political guidance and timely advice.

29. The problems of United Nations peacekeeping did not stem only from a lack of logistics support or sufficient staff. Correct and timely political advice from senior management was also imperative for success. His delegation was therefore surprised that the Advisory Committee had not recommended the additional post of Assistant Secretary-General for Military and Civilian Police Affairs, which was needed to strengthen policy making. The question of additional posts for logistics or operational support should, however, await the comprehensive review which the Special Committee had long requested.

30. His delegation agreed that there was a need to attach equal importance to the Organization's development agenda; peace and development were complementary and not mutually exclusive. It also strongly supported the Special Committee's call for troop-contributing countries to be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to reflect adequately their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping.

31. The growing amounts owed to troop-contributing countries was becoming a perennial problem which, regrettably, had not been addressed in the Panel's report. The proposed comprehensive review should look into that issue with a view to identifying corrective measures.

32. **Mr. Paredes** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that he supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

33. The Rio Group attached importance to making peacekeeping operations more efficient and dynamic. Clearly, strengthening peacekeeping mechanisms would require the allocation of additional human and financial resources, and the Group would work to achieve a consensus on the matter in the Committee.

34. Welcoming the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/676), he said it was crucial to abide by its recommendations as well as those in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/C.4/55/6), which was the competent political body on the issue. The Group supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations, and in particular the acceptance of 95 additional posts. As for the 150 posts

recommended for reconsideration in the light of the comprehensive study to be presented by the Secretariat in the first half of 2001, the Group considered that such an "emergency package" was only the first stage in what would be a long process of in-depth reform. Given the complexity of the proposed reforms, a more detailed study of posts might be needed at later stages, and he hoped that the political will that had been demonstrated during the current stage would be maintained.

35. The Group reiterated its readiness to participate constructively in the process of consensus-building in order to achieve the allocation of the necessary resources, which would revitalize the peacekeeping system and thus enhance the credibility of the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping on which so many people throughout the world depended.

36. **Mr. Hamidullah** (Bangladesh) said that, in view of the importance of peacekeeping operations, which had evolved in nature and breadth over the years, his delegation had welcomed the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) during the Millennium Summit. When it came to implementing its proposals, however, a number of questions needed to be addressed, including those underlined by the representative of Nigeria speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It was important to look at all the proposals comprehensively, objectively, and in a broad perspective.

37. In the absence of a comprehensive picture of how the Panel's recommendations would be implemented, his delegation had some specific questions about the Secretary-General's proposals, for example, concerning the resources requested for electoral assistance and the duties to be carried out by staff members redeployed from the Department of Public Information. He would take those up during informal consultations.

38. His delegation had several broad concerns. First, he urged stricter compliance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure. Second, while it was clear that additional resources would be required to implement the key recommendations of the Panel, a commitment to implementation could not be made if a cap was maintained on the budget; zero nominal growth was counterproductive. Third, as a troop-contributing country, Bangladesh wondered why the Panel had not addressed the issue of rates for troop costs. Lastly, his delegation considered that resources for peacekeeping should not be increased at the expense of the long-term effort to achieve sustainable development; the biggest deterrent to violent conflict was to address its root causes.

39. **Mr. Bouheddou** (Algeria) said that he supported the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

40. His delegation was satisfied with most of the comments and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee in its report. It supported the proposals of the Secretary-General for the first phase of implementation and found them amply justified.

41. The troop-contributing countries had expressed understandable concerns that had to be taken into consideration. One recent observation was of particular concern to his delegation. Peacekeeping staff, and particularly troops, were increasingly being provided by developing countries. Developed countries, citing the great dangers involved, were increasingly reluctant to contribute troops, thus depriving the international community of their considerable military resources. It was important to make a special appeal to the permanent members of the Security Council, whose role in peacekeeping was crucial.

42. Finally, he said that insistence on a knowledge of English was effectively turning away potential contributors to peacekeeping operations; it was, moreover, contrary to the Organization's multilingual policy. While the Organization had six official languages, its working languages were French and English; knowledge of either of those languages should suffice.

43. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that he would respond to two issues that had been raised: the procedure for submitting resource requirements and the emergency proposal.

44. With regard to the first, he explained that the Secretary-General, acting on his own authority as Chief Executive Officer, had established the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and had secured its funding from voluntary contributions. Once the Panel had reported its recommendations (A/55/507-S/2000/809), the Secretary-General had passed them along to the Security Council and the General Assembly. At the same time he had submitted his own report and proposals (A/55/502) and had quantified the resources

that would be needed for implementing them (A/55/507), the aim being to facilitate concrete discussion and action. The Secretary-General had followed a similar procedure in 1997, when he had put forward his proposals for reform together with a document on the resources that would be required. No rules of procedure had been violated.

45. With regard to the second issue raised, he referred to the summary of document A/55/507, which made it clear that the resources being requested on an emergency basis related solely to the support account. The request was based on the Panel's recommendation for an emergency supplemental increase under the support account to allow immediate recruitment of additional personnel, particularly in the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809, para. 197 (c)). Other resources were also being sought, not on an emergency basis, but, as stated in the summary of document A/55/507, for immediate implementation of those recommendations that were ready for implementation as of January 2001.

46. In the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the Heads of State and Government had resolved to give the Organization the tools it needed for greater effectiveness in peace and security operations, had taken note of the report of the Panel, and had asked the General Assembly to consider the Panel's recommendations expeditiously. In the Secretary-General's view, it was incumbent upon him to provide the General Assembly as quickly as possible with a plan for implementing the proposals, an indication of which ones could be implemented as of January 2001, and the resources that would be required.

47. Clarifying the timing of the forthcoming comprehensive review of the management of peacekeeping operations, he said that the next report on the support account (covering the period from July 2001 to June 2002) would have to be ready by February 2001, and the proposed programme budget by April 2001, in order for them to be reviewed in timely fashion. The outcome of the comprehensive review would not be ready by then. The Secretary-General would therefore issue it later as a separate report, in time for the General Assembly's review of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and as a supplementary budget for the support account.

48. **Ms. Sun** Minqin (China) recalled her request for structure and staffing details relating to peacekeeping operations, including the adjustments proposed by the Advisory Committee.

49. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that the current structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was set out in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. A future structure had been proposed in document A/55/57, but it would, of course, be reviewed in the light of the General Assembly's subsequent decisions with regard to posts. He would be happy to provide the representative of China informally with information about the structure of peacekeeping operations and a breakdown of current staff by grade and nationality.

50. **Mr. Dausá Céspedes** (Cuba), referring to the issue of procedure, said that his delegation had never doubted the Secretary-General's authority to convene the high-level Panel. The question was rather one of maintaining the credibility of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was the body with recognized competence in the matter and which had been in session at the time the Panel had been set up.

51. He would be grateful for a list of the voluntary contributions used for funding the Panel.

52. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) replied that the Secretary-General had drawn on a trust fund created from personal and real property willed to the United Nations intended for the Organization's use in maintaining peace and security.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Capital master plan (A/55/7/Add.4 and A/55/117 and Add.1)

53. **Mr. Connor** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan (A/55/117), said that the Secretary-General's proposal for a long-term capital master plan for United Nations Headquarters had been one of the three main themes planned for introduction in 2000. Also before the Committee were the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/7/Add.4), the affirmative nature of which was appreciated by the Secretariat, and a summary of information that the Advisory Committee had requested on the participation of host Governments and

local authorities in maintaining United Nations assets in their countries (A/55/117/Add.1).

54. A team of engineers and architects had examined the current state of the Headquarters complex during 1998 and 1999. Not surprisingly, they had found that, despite the original excellent construction, the buildings — particularly the building systems — had deteriorated to the point where maintenance could no longer keep pace. Equally important, they had found that the Organization was no longer in compliance with fire safety codes, accessibility standards or modern security requirements, which were now much stricter than they had originally been. Moreover, the buildings were very energy inefficient.

55. Given the inevitability of a major refurbishment and repair programme, the question was how to go about it. At present, repairs were made piecemeal through a series of biennial budgets, remedying the most urgent problems as they occurred. Projecting the costs of pursuing such a reactive approach over a 25-year period, the experts had concluded that it would entail spending almost $1.2 billion and would not remedy some of the most significant problems. Capital costs plus energy costs, which now totalled about $20 million a year, would grow to almost $100 million annually by 2015, and over the 25-year period almost half a billion dollars would be spent on energy, much of it wasted.

56. Instead, the Secretariat was proposing a more far-sighted and sensible course of action. By means of a concentrated, planned and managed refurbishment programme — the capital master plan — each building would be raised to modern standards of fire safety, energy efficiency and accessibility, and hazardous materials such as asbestos would be completely removed. The upgrades, which could be completed in six years at an estimated cost of $964 million, would cut energy consumption over 25 years to $326 million instead of the projected $490 million that would be incurred with the reactive approach.

57. During the construction period, to minimize disruption to work, meeting schedules and the phasing of construction would need to be carefully matched. Temporary office space would also be needed to accommodate approximately 1,000 staff members. The capital master plan estimates included the cost of renting new space created by the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC), which was a major partner in constructing the Headquarters complex. That was, however, only one option.

58. The capital master plan also offered a unique opportunity to make improvements, including the creation of conference rooms and the consolidation of scattered technology service spaces, that would relieve pressures for meeting space, permit more efficient use of technology, and make Headquarters more visitor-friendly. The Secretariat took note of the Advisory Committee's comments and would ensure that such plans would be realistic and not overly ambitious.

59. As for payment, one approach would be to have a special assessment throughout the duration of the programme — six years, or eight years including the design phase. Another was to borrow the money and repay it over the 25-year life of the improvements. Member States might wish to offer interest-free loans. Such a loan had been provided by the host country to cover the cost of initial construction and had been repaid from the regular budget over 30 years. The Secretariat believed that that was the best approach, but had investigated others as well. One possibility was to issue quasi-sovereign bonds, similar to those issued by the World Bank; that would involve making use of the good name and creditworthiness of individual Member States in order to obtain reasonable interest rates.

60. If the Member States provided interest-free loans for at least half the cost of the capital master plan, the Organization could borrow the remainder through a commercial bond offering. Construction, energy and interest costs would total $1.61 billion, as compared with $1.64 billion for the "reactive approach", but that approach would result in code-compliant, energy-efficient and technologically up-to-date buildings. Operationally and fiscally, the advantages of the master capital plan were clear, but the decision was up to the Member States.

61. The cost estimates presented were considered realistic. To avoid cost overruns, a very conservative, industry-standard costing method had been adopted, and financial contingencies had been built in for the many aspects of the project that could not yet be defined.

62. The next phase would be to draw up a detailed implementation plan, which would require an initial provision of $8 million. The schematic design phase would cover design and analysis of the building systems, the swing space options, utility strategies,

energy-saving technologies, and products and systems. There would be close coordination with local authorities since, as observed by the Advisory Committee, the buildings would need to meet local health and safety codes. During that phase, an Advisory Group would be set to further develop the financing possibilities for implementation. The Secretariat took note of the Advisory Committee's observations about the role of the host country and the city and state authorities, which it agreed was pivotal to the resolution of the total funding picture. On completion of that phase, a comprehensive plan and detailed financing proposal would be submitted to the Member States for consideration and final decision.

63. As noted by the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General would submit a separate proposal for a privately funded expansion of the Headquarters visitors' area at the resumed session in March 2001.

64. The capital master plan would prevent wasteful expenditures, preserve the unique buildings while giving them a current face, and provide a safe and dignified environment for the Organization's work.

65. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/7/Add.4), said that detailed recommendations would be made after the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. The Advisory Committee's preliminary recommendations, meanwhile, were that the Secretary-General should be authorized to proceed with the preparation of the design plan and cost analysis and that an additional $8 million should be appropriated under section 31 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. By taking note of the Advisory Committee's report and endorsing it, the Fifth Committee would affirm the Secretary-General's statement that there was a need to address the problem; enable the appropriation of $8 million; and authorize the Secretary-General to report to it on the result of the process at the fifty-sixth session.

66. **Ms. Sánchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) requested the Under-Secretary-General to provide written information on the relationship between other host countries and the offices of United Nations entities based in those countries.

67. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had not fully understood the concept put forward by the Under-Secretary-General as a solution to the funding for refurbishment. He requested further information on that and on the statement, in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report, that the Committee had been unable to ascertain that the assumptions contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/55/117) were a fair basis on which to assure that the Organization was protected against cost overruns. Lastly, he asked why the Advisory Committee had felt the need, in paragraph 7 of its report, to caution against presenting plans that might be unrealistic or over ambitious.

68. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) requested clarification as to what the Committee was being asked to do and how far it would be committed to a specific type of project. There was a risk that if only refurbishment was considered, less attention would be given to alternative options. If, however, $8 million was to be spent without suitable financing arrangements put in place, the initial outlay might be wasted and a need for further expenditure might arise.

69. **Mr. Connor** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) stressed that the capital plan did indeed represent a major undertaking and no perfect solution could claim to have been found. So far, the Secretariat had merely provided an overview of how matters might develop. In answer to the question put by the representative of Cuba, he said that the relevant information had been provided in document A/55/117/Add.1. Host countries adopted different approaches, but collectively they had shown enormous support for the United Nations. As for the point raised by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, he said that there were numerous financing options, but the watchword must be caution. The possibilities included making lump sum assessments for specific purposes; making a series of assessments early in the years of the building programme which would carry the project through to completion; repeating the arrangement adopted at the time that the Headquarters building had been erected, whereby one member had paid the full cost and been repaid on a no-interest basis; or selling bonds to the public. Security would obviously be required for the latter option, but he had confidence in the suggested "lockbox" approach and the Organization would enjoy a quasi-sovereign interest rate for its debt.

70. He acknowledged that, although there was no intention to close the door on alternatives, the focus of the capital master plan was refurbishment. Some

modest expansion was also under consideration, however, with the provision of one large new conference room, several smaller ones and a consolidation of the space given to information technology.

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/7/Add.5 and A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

71. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report (A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1), said that the report's primary purpose was to identify adjustments required owing to variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. It also took into account additional mandates approved by the General Assembly and the Security Council and unforeseen and extraordinary items. He drew the Committee's attention to the adjustments presented in paragraph 3. There were four elements in those adjustments, the first of which — unforeseen and extraordinary expenses — was detailed in paragraphs 8 to 10 and related to peace and security, the International Court of Justice and interorganizational security measures. The second element — decisions of policy-making organs — related to the Millennium Summit, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), strengthening the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and the global environmental forum. The third element dealt with variations in budgetary assumptions, the major one being changes in exchange rates set out in schedule 3 in document A/55/645/Add.1. He also drew attention to the revised inflation rates contained in schedules 1, 2 and 4, which were most notably due to high inflationary costs associated with utilities, in particular higher oil prices. As for adjustments to standard costs, those were due to lower salary average costs than had been projected and a higher level of vacancies in 2000, 8 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories and 2.6 per cent for staff in the General Service category, compared to the budgeted rate of 6.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

72. The fourth element — in response to resolutions of the General Assembly — dealt with issues such as the International Trade Centre, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, public information, including the radio pilot project for the development of a United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity, the International Systems Coordinations Committee and various special political missions.

73. *Mr. Hae-yun Park (Republic of Korea) (Vice-Chairman) took the Chair.*

74. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/7/Add.5) drew attention to a revision of footnote (a) in annex IV: the existing text should be replaced by the words "See A/C.5/55/24". The Advisory Committee's recommendations (para. 19) included approval of the net revised requirements of the Secretary-General, of $2,120,651,100, an amount which was some $53.7 million less than the initial appropriation. Those estimates would, however, have to be adjusted to take into account the decisions of the General Assembly on the additional requirements referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report, the details of which were set out in annex I. He drew particular attention to the additional amount of $22,111,900 required for special political missions over and above the $90 million appropriated in the budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The details of those special political missions were set out in annex IV to the report. In that context, he noted that the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala would require nearly $9 million, but that took account of the $7 million remaining from the initial appropriation by the General Assembly.

75. **Ms. Samayoa** (Guatemala) said that the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala had been a success both for her country and for the United Nations and its continuation was most desirable. She hoped that the Committee would endorse the Advisory Committee's recommendation in that regard.

76. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) requested clarification on a number of issues arising from the Secretary-General's first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/645). Reference was made in paragraph 29 to a worldwide recruitment campaign to fill posts at the Economic Commission for Africa and he wondered what action was being taken in addition to the advertisements in international and regional publications. According to paragraph 31, many posts had still to be filled. In that context, he asked what the

nationalities of the candidates were. He also requested further details of the reclassification of three posts at the International Trade Centre, mentioned in paragraph 34, and asked why the amount of $1.7 million required for the radio pilot project was being redeployed within the Department of Public Information (para. 40), since it was an important project. Lastly, he requested further details of the recruitment procedures for the United Nations Office at Nairobi, with a view to its functioning as an autonomous conference centre. All posts for translators and interpreters were to have been filled by 2001, yet the report made no mention of any progress made.

77. **Mr. Orr** (Canada), referring to the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/7/Add.5), requested an update of the figures included in annex I: it would be helpful for the Committee to have a clearer understanding of what budget levels it was to approve.

78. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Budget Division) said, with regard to recruitment for the Economic Commission for Africa, that the Office of Human Resources Management was making a special effort to fill the vacant posts, but a minimum period was nonetheless required. A task force had been established by the Office and the Commission and vacancy notices had been prepared with a view to launching an advertising campaign, the fruits of which would be seen in 2001. He could give no immediate information on the nationalities of candidates. As for the question of translators and interpreters for the United Nations Office at Nairobi, arrangements were moving forward, coordination between the departments concerned was good and there were sufficient resources to provide for a full team, but the challenge was to find individuals who were prepared to relocate to the duty station. With regard to the redeployment of resources within the Department of Public Information, he said that such redeployment had been foreseen at the time that General Assembly resolution 54/249 had been adopted; no extra funds were to have been made available. Lastly, he would provide further information later on the situation concerning the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

79. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed concern that the planned recruitment for interpreter and other posts at the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office at Nairobi had not yet taken place and indicated that he would raise that matter during informal consultations.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (A/55/680; A/C.5/55/24)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1: The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/55/677; A/C.5/55/26)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42: The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (A/55/674; A/C.5/55/27)

80. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the statements submitted by the Secretary-General on programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1 concerning the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) (A/C.5/55/24), draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 regarding the critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (A/C.5/55/26) and draft resolution A/55/L.42 concerning the situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (A/C.5/55/27).

81. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the reports of the Advisory Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions in question. Referring to the report concerning MINUGUA (A/55/680) he said that the adoption of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1 would involve additional requirements of $16,235,400, of which $7,243,200 would be charged against the existing provision for special political missions and an additional appropriation of $8,992,200 under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (para. 15). With regard to the report on draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 on the critical situation of INSTRAW (A/55/677), he drew attention to the Advisory Committee's statement in paragraph 8 that it was not in a position, from a technical point of view, to confirm the estimate of the Secretary-General because of the wording of the draft

resolution. The General Assembly would first have to decide what form of assistance should be provided to INSTRAW and then what amount should be allocated. Turning to the report on draft resolution A/55/L.42 on the situation in Central America (A/55/674), he drew attention to the Advisory Committee's recommendation that since the adoption of the draft resolution would involve a continuation of the activities authorized the previous year, an additional appropriation of $191,800 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

82. **Mr. Lenefors** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed support for the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with regard to the draft resolutions on MINUGUA (A/55/L.33/Rev.1) and the situation in Central America (A/55/L.42). However, while he fully supported the important work done by INSTRAW, he felt that some aspects of the statement by the Secretary-General and the report of the Advisory Committee with regard to the funding and needs of INSTRAW were unclear and he therefore requested that brief informal consultations should be held in order to seek clarification.

83. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) expressed support for the recommendations regarding MINUGUA and Central America and stressed the importance of INSTRAW. However, his delegation had some concerns about the difficulties which INSTRAW seemed to be facing as a result of a lack of financial and other support from donor countries. That situation must be resolved, but the language of the draft resolution was unclear, the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications was ambiguous and the response from the Advisory Committee was likewise vague. It would therefore be difficult for the Committee to act. He would seek further clarification during informal consultations on the current status of pledges to INSTRAW made and received in 2000, what any exceptional amounts approved would be used for, whether INSTRAW had performance standards and appropriate accounting mechanisms to ensure that funds were used wisely, and the "technical" problem mentioned by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report (A/55/677).

84. Recalling that in resolution 54/140 the General Assembly had urged that the use of all six official languages on the Institute's web site should be ensured (para. 10), requested the Secretary-General to correct the administrative anomalies noted in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (para. 11) and requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide support in setting up the new structure and working method for the Institute (para. 12), he asked whether those provisions had been complied with. With reference to paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of INSTRAW (A/55/385) regarding the feasibility of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS), he said he wondered whether, in the light of the statement on programme budget implications, the GAINS project would still receive the required support.

85. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to the three draft decisions the text of which had been circulated to members of the Committee, expressed support for all three and regretted the request for informal consultations on INSTRAW. With regard to that important institution, he noted that the pledges received for 2001 were less than one quarter the amount pledged for 1999 and said that the United Nations must decide whether it wished INSTRAW to continue operations or not. Given the importance of gender issues and the advancement of women, failure to support INSTRAW would threaten the credibility of the United Nations and the Fifth Committee. Even the addition of some $800,000, which he hoped would not be opposed, would leave the Institute with a much smaller budget than in 1999.

86. Recalling the 24-hour rule and the policy on the provision of translations of draft resolutions and decisions in all official languages, he insisted that translations of the three draft decisions should be provided before action was taken.

87. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern at the uncertain future facing INSTRAW. The Institute had a long history of problems which had discouraged some donors, but the situation had now reached a critical stage and the Institute's very existence was threatened unless the United Nations took immediate action to revitalize it. He had hoped that no further informal consultations would be necessary, and appealed to delegations to be flexible and take action as soon as possible.

88. **Mr. Paredes** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria and stressed the urgency of an effective response to the financial crisis facing

INSTRAW, the only United Nations body of its kind. Although he regretted the call for further informal consultations, his delegation would work to resolve any outstanding issues and hoped that consultations would lead to an appropriate solution.

89. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, supported the call for further informal consultations to clarify some concerns remaining with regard to INSTRAW, but proposed that the Committee should nevertheless take action on the draft decisions on MINUGUA and Central America.

90. **Mr. Kadiri** (Morocco) supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria. He noted INSTRAW's greatly reduced budget, the threat of its imminent closure and the consequences that that would have on gender issues, and urged the Committee to provide the Institute with the necessary funding for 2001.

91. **Mr. Kendall** (Argentina) supported the proposal made by the representative of Australia. Since no objections had been raised to the draft decisions on MINUGUA and Central America, action could be taken on those two items.

92. **Mr. Lenefors** (Sweden) said that he had only called for informal consultations with regard to the draft decision on INSTRAW in order to ensure that the Institute was provided with a truly sound financial basis so that it could continue its important work. He agreed with the representatives of Argentina and Australia that action could be taken on the draft decisions regarding MINUGUA and Central America.

93. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation did not object to the adoption of any of the three draft decisions, but he reiterated his insistence that, in accordance with the policies and rules of the Committee, translations of the three draft decisions must be provided in all six official languages.

94. **Mr. Acakpo-Satchivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that there had been no violation of the rules of the Committee since the text circulated to Committee members had been taken word for word from the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee (A/55/674, para. 4, A/55/677, paras. 8-9 and A/55/680, para. 15) which had been translated into all six official languages and which were available to delegations. No further delay for retranslation should therefore be necessary.

95. **Ms. Alvarez** (Dominican Republic) recalled that on 4 December the General Assembly had delayed action on six Third Committee resolutions, including one on INSTRAW until the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee had had an opportunity to report on the programme budget implications of those resolutions. She stressed the need to move quickly before the General Assembly recessed on 22 December and said that all three draft decisions should be dealt with at the same time.

96. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic), in response to the Secretary's statement, said that whether or not the draft decisions in question had been taken word for word from reports which existed in all six official languages was not relevant. He again insisted that the three draft decisions should be translated into all six official languages; given their brevity, that should not require a great deal of time. He also objected to the tone used by the Secretary in his statement and wished to register an official complaint about the lack of courtesy shown which was totally inappropriate for a secretariat official addressing the representative of a sovereign State.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
later: Ms. Dinič (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Croatia)
later: Mr. Rosenthal (Chairman) ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (continued)

Capital master plan (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42: The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (continued)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1: The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (continued)

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00-80044 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/16, A/55/186 and A/55/685)

1. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/186). The outline was an important first step in the budgetary process, which was aimed at achieving the widest possible agreement on the Organization's financial requirements. As an estimate of resources required, and not a preliminary budget, the outline was by its very nature a general document. Part II contained a preliminary indicative estimate of resources for the biennium 2002-2003 and included the appropriations for 2000-2001 plus provisions for new posts approved in 2000-2001 (para. 3) and provision for new or expanded activities in 2002-2003 (para. 5), less one-time costs in 2000-2001 (para. 4). Since the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) was still under review, provisions for special political missions had not been included, although they were estimated to cost approximately $90.3 million in the biennium 2002-2003. Part III reflected the priorities proposed in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. Part IV contained preliminary estimates of 1.2 per cent real growth without the inclusion of special political missions, or a decrease of 2.4 per cent once special political missions were taken into account, compared with the initial appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001. In part V it was recommended that the contingency fund should be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources.

2. He stressed that, as indicated in paragraph 6, during the budget preparation period the Secretary-General would continue to scrutinize the level of resources required and reflect in his budget submission the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures.

3. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/685). The Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General was proposing a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2002-2003 of $2,475.4 million (para. 2). It was, however, not sure of the reason for deleting the provisions for special political missions and was of the opinion (para. 8) that the estimates for special political missions should continue to be included in the budget outline. Experience had shown that the initial provisions for special political missions had been exceeded and were currently estimated at $112 million for 2000-2001. The Committee recommended that the amount allocated for the biennium 2002-2003 should be approximately $93.7 million, and that any additional amount should be handled in accordance with the procedure established in General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 53/206. As indicated in paragraph 11, the Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should adopt a preliminary estimate of $2,515.3 million at the revised 2000-2001 rates for the biennium 2002-2003. When taking action on the outline, the General Assembly would take into account the need to recost amounts once the budget was prepared to reflect 2002-2003 rates. He informed the Committee that, in the second sentence of paragraph 10, the phrase "for the biennium 2000-2001" should be replaced by "for the biennium 2002-2003".

4. **Ms. Wensley** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, stressed the importance of the programme budget outline in the budget process. Early agreement on the indicative level of the budget helped Member States to plan to meet their financial obligations in full and on time. Preliminary analysis indicated that the proposed programme budget outline appeared consistent with the priorities set out in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. She endorsed the principle aspects of the proposal, which reflected the continued commitment to make the United Nations a more responsive, effective and efficient organization.

5. The budget estimate must be as realistic a forecast of the Organization's financial requirements as possible and the budget process must be open and transparent in order to ensure that Member States had the information they needed when taking decisions. She therefore regretted that the budget estimates did

not take into account special political missions, which incurred significant additional resources, and recalled resolution 53/206, in which the General Assembly had endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General to include special political missions in the budget outline. She also endorsed the opinion expressed by the Advisory Committee in its report (para. 8) that, since special political missions were of a continuing nature, estimates should continue to be included in the budget outline. She therefore agreed that the estimates in the budget outline should include an amount of $93.7 million at revised rates for special political missions. Omission of those significant costs was not conducive to sound budgetary planning and control.

6. She regretted that the budget outline made no mention of projected efficiency savings. In the previous budget outline, efficiency gains in the amount of $20 million had been identified and she recalled that, as early as 1948, the Advisory Committee had stressed the importance of stringent budgeting and the need to use resources more wisely. The budget should enable implementation of priority activities and at the same time take advantage of every possible opportunity to do things better and more cost effectively.

7. It was disappointing that the budget outline did not make cost provisions for major issues such as the capital master plan, the safety and security of United Nations personnel and implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. In that regard, she noted that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of a level of resources significantly lower than had been requested; if that recommendation was accepted, it would reduce the amounts involved. She concurred with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the General Assembly should adopt a budget estimate of $2,515.3 million at the revised 2000-2001 rates for the biennium 2002-2003.

8. **Ms. Cervi** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the United Nations was embarking on extensive reforms that would need to be given substance in budgetary decisions. The European Union was generally satisfied with the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003, although it hoped to be given more detailed information in the informal consultations. The outline adequately reflected the Organization's priorities, as defined by the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The European Union supported the Secretary-General's efforts to find savings which would make some redeployment possible and commended his intention rigorously to scrutinize the amounts requested for 2002-2003. Although no firm figure could be put on such savings, the action was worth taking.

9. The European Union strongly shared the view of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee that special political missions should be reintegrated in the outline, in accordance with the General Assembly's decision in principle at the time of the previous outline. It was important that sufficient provisions should appear in the budget outline, so that in due course such missions were not endangered through lack of funding.

10. With regard to the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the European Union had already spoken earlier on the issue. The Committee would, however, need to consider the financial consequences of implementing both the recommendations of the Panel and the recommendations concerning measures to strengthen the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The improvements required should be factored into the budgetary provisions for the biennium 2002-2003, the scale of which would become clear in May 2001. No allowance had been made for those two factors in the outline, but they would continue to be discussed in informal consultations. In any case, she reiterated the view of the European Union that peacekeeping should not detract from efforts by the international community to promote development.

11. The European Union was keeping an open mind on the outline, given the number of imponderables. The consequences of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the thrust of the special political missions and the refurbishment of Headquarters — of which the outline said nothing — could all upset the delicate balance of the proposed budget. As a preliminary assessment, however, the outline was satisfactory and the European Union would play its part in the financial consequences of any General Assembly decisions.

12. **Ms. Arce de Jeannet** (Mexico) said that it was essential for a budget to include the financial and human resources needed to carry out all mandated activities. It would be wrong, in the interests of a spurious efficiency, to sacrifice the activities that gave the Organization meaning, or the high quality of its

work. She noted that special political missions were not included in the outline, although the General Assembly had decided, in resolution 53/206, that they should be incorporated. Her delegation fully concurred with the view expressed in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/685). Moreover, the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 should include the necessary resources to implement the resolution concerning the high-level international intergovernmental meeting on financing for development which would shortly be approved by the General Assembly. Lastly, her delegation endorsed the conclusions contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

13. **Mr. Hays** (United States of America) expressed appreciation for the work of the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee in ensuring the smooth functioning of the budget process and expressed support for the budget outline in general. He recalled that Member States and the Secretariat had worked to streamline the work of the Organization and make it more responsive so that its activities could be carried out with the greatest efficiency possible. Responsible budgeting must continue so that the United Nations could continue to serve the needs of those who depended on it. The review process within the Fifth Committee was a critical part of that responsible budget process and the Committee should be able to approve the budget outline as a preliminary indication of the resources needed for the priority activities of the Organization in accordance with the mandate set out by the General Assembly. His delegation supported those priorities, but the budget outline required more definition, as had been pointed out by the Advisory Committee, in order to take into account issues that were currently before the General Assembly; it was difficult at the present stage to make accurate estimates of the resources needed.

14. He agreed with other delegations and the Advisory Committee that special political missions should continue to be included in the budget outline and welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General to improve the safety and security of United Nations personnel; the United Nations share of any related costs should be reflected in the budget outline. Any additional costs arising out of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, currently under review by the Fifth Committee, should also be included in the budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003. While he was pleased to note from the proposed budget outline (paras. 6 and 9) that the Secretary-General would continue to scrutinize critically the level of resources required and to maximize the output effectiveness of the resources committed, there was no indication of what economies could be expected or which areas were being addressed. The budget outline should deal not only with planned expenditures but also with planning and reduction of costs, which were essential for effective budgeting. He noted that there was a slight reduction in the estimate for public information activities, although it still represented more than 5 per cent of the total budget. He stressed the importance of continuing a bottom-up approach to all aspects of budgeting and the need to take into account self-evaluation carried out by the relevant oversight bodies. With regard to the contingency fund, given that the fund was greater than the amount actually used in recent years, he believed that it would be reasonable to reduce it to 0.25 per cent, as had been proposed in the budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

15. To sum up, it was difficult to appreciate the overall total without having more details on the full context of the budget outline and he proposed the approval of an amount of $2.475 million, which would be sufficient to cover core activities, as indicated in the table in paragraph 2, to be revised to take into account currency fluctuations and inflation. Provision should also be made to take into account items of which the details would be available the following spring. He concluded by stressing his delegation's commitment to providing the Organization with adequate resources to undertake its priority activities but also stressed the need to implement those priorities in the most efficient way possible.

16. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) commended the efforts made by the Secretary-General to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations. The continuing financial difficulties of Member States made it all the more important that such efforts should continue. The budget outline provided an opportunity for Member States to reflect on estimated overall resources prior to the submission of the proposed programme budget for the next biennium. Provisions for special political missions and for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations personnel should be included in the preliminary estimate. He also regretted that compensating

economies had not been identified in the outline as had been done in the past. Precise estimates of savings to be achieved from implementing mandated activities more efficiently and economically should be developed. Finally, he agreed that the contingency fund should be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources.

17. **Mr. Lozinski** (Russian Federation) said that, while the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 was necessarily of a preliminary nature, considerable time had elapsed and much had happened since the outline had been drawn up.

18. No amount was included in the outline for the possible continuation of existing special political missions. His delegation appreciated the arguments for that approach outlined in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report (A/55/186), but the Organization's experience over the past years, especially in the context of unforeseen requirements in connection with special missions, suggested that the Advisory Committee's recommendation that an amount for special missions should be included in the budget outline was well-founded. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's intention of maximizing the output effectiveness of the resources committed and noted that the budget submission would reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures. The Secretary-General had also been correct in the priorities he had outlined for the biennium 2002-2003. As for the preliminary estimate for the biennium, his delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 11 of its report. Lastly, his delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that the contingency fund should be maintained at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources. It was essential that the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 concerning the use of the contingency fund should be upheld.

19. **Ms. Rodsmoen** (Norway) said that her delegation supported the budgetary process established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213. It regarded the budget outline as a preliminary estimate of the resources needed for the next biennium, rather than as a ceiling for the next budget proposal. While the growth rate of the programme budget was not a question of principle for her delegation, it believed that the policy of zero nominal growth had become increasingly counterproductive in that it limited the Organization's capacity to respond to new challenges. The United Nations was becoming increasingly dependent on voluntary contributions from a disappointingly small group of countries. Many of the activities financed through such contributions fell within the core mandate of the Organization and should therefore be financed through the regular budget.

20. With regard to the budget outline, it appeared that, in order to appease the proponents of the policy of zero nominal growth, the Secretary-General had been obliged to omit provisions for, inter alia, special political missions, implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations system personnel. Her delegation was prepared to accept the outline, on the understanding that Member States would have to approve some additional expenditure. It endorsed the priorities for the next biennium identified in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6) and it supported the maintenance of the contingency fund at its current level.

21. *Ms. Dinič (Croatia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

22. **Ms. Sanchez Lorenzo** (Cuba) stressed the importance of the budget outline as a preliminary indication of the Organization's resource requirements for the next biennium. The budget outline must reflect the priorities established by Member States and she agreed with the Advisory Committee that it should include provisions for special political missions, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/206. She also hoped that the Secretariat would take into account decisions taken by the General Assembly since the budget outline had been prepared, as reflected in the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/685). Given the difficulty of estimating potential savings, she believed that the budget outline should concentrate on forecasting resources for the many important activities of the Organization and that potential savings should be discussed in the context of future consultations. She stressed that her delegation would continue to work to adopt a budget outline that would reflect all new realities facing the Organization and establish a final budget that would provide it with the resources it needed to implement its mandate.

23. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the purpose of the budget outline was to provide Member States with a preliminary indication of the resources that might be required in the next biennium. No growth was envisaged in the outline, although the General Assembly had never endorsed the concept of zero nominal growth. His delegation believed that the budget outline should be based not on that concept, but on the Organization's needs. He concurred with the Advisory Committee's view that, since the requirements for special political missions were of a continuing nature, the related estimates should continue to be included in the budget outline.

24. It was not clear to him why a number of posts approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the installation, operation, support and maintenance of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) at offices away from Headquarters had been funded for only the latter part of the biennium (A/55/186, para. 3). He strongly supported the appropriation in 2002-2003 of an additional $13.2 million to fully fund those posts. Regarding the Secretary-General's intention to conduct further reviews of possible obsolete activities (para. 6), he wished to know what those activities were and what savings would be achieved by their abolition. His delegation, which attached great importance to public information activities, was concerned at the proposed reduction of expenditure under that part of the programme budget. The proposal to increase the resources allocated for internal oversight should be reviewed in the light of the Organization's other pressing needs. In general, substantive activities should take priority. More detailed information should be provided regarding the proposal to increase expenditure under common support services. Lastly, the contingency fund should be maintained at its current level.

25. **Mr. Zhou** Qiangwu (China) said, with regard to the budget outline, that his delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its fortieth session. He noted that the preliminary estimate of resources needed for the biennium 2002-2003, which amounted to $2,475.4 million, represented a reduction compared with the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. While efforts to increase efficiency and reduce expenditure were to be commended, the programme budget must provide sufficient resources for the full implementation of mandated activities, and savings must not be achieved at the expense of programme delivery. There was a need for flexibility regarding the level of the programme budget if the commitments made at the Millennium Summit were to be fulfilled. Dialogue and consensus-building, too, were vital elements of the budgetary process.

26. He was pleased to note that the budget outline reflected the priorities identified in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6). It was important to ensure, in that connection, that there was a balance between the Organization's peacekeeping and development activities. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee that a provision for special political missions should have been included in the budget outline. The omission of such an amount was hardly conducive to transparency in the budgetary process. Lastly, he agreed with those speakers who had called for the maintenance of the contingency fund at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources.

27. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) recalled that the purpose of the budget outline was to promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget. The document before the Committee had been prepared in July. In the light of the ongoing review of the recommendations contained in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809), it had not been possible to include provisions for special political missions, implementation of the Panel's recommendations, and strengthening of the security and safety of United Nations system personnel. As stated in the report (A/55/186, para. 7), the Secretary-General believed that it would be best to revert to those issues and their effects on the outline when the relevant reports were available; that would not represent a departure from the Committee's past practice. Subsequently, when the Committee came to approve the budget outline, it would take into account not only the document now before it but also any other reports on issues related to additional expenditures.

28. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/206, no figures relating to savings from efficiency gains had been included. However, as stated in the report (para. 6), the Secretary-General would continue to scrutinize the level of resources required for 2002-2003 and would reflect in his budget submission the benefit of additional cost-effective measures and

simplified procedures. A list of obsolete activities would be issued as an annex to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

29. Additional resources had been provided in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, to enable the Department of Public Information to cover a number of conferences. Since those expenses were not recurring, a reduction of expenditure under public information was anticipated in 2002-2003. The new posts approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the installation, operation, support and maintenance of IMIS would not be established until 2001 and were therefore being funded for only the latter part of the biennium, whereas a full biennial provision would be required for those posts in 2002-2003. It was recommended that the level of the contingency fund should be maintained at 0.75 per cent in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Member States.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (continued) (A/55/7/Add.5 and Corr.1 and A/55/645 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

30. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) asked why the realized level of vacancies in 2000 had exceeded the average vacancy rate approved by the General Assembly. She also wished to know what the vacancy rates were in respect of the new posts established in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and the posts in United Nations information centres referred to in General Assembly resolution 52/220.

31. **Mr. Sach** (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that, although the realized level of vacancies for staff in the Professional and higher categories in 2000 had been just over 8 per cent, which was somewhat higher than the average vacancy rate of 6.5 per cent approved by the General Assembly, the 2.6 per cent vacancy rate achieved for staff in the General Service and related categories had been on target. The higher than budgeted vacancy rate for staff in the Professional and higher categories was not a general problem, but was concentrated in a limited number of budget sections, including section 16 (Economic and social development in Africa) and section 28 (Office of Internal Oversight Services). He was pleased to report that vacancy rates in those exceptionally high-vacancy sections had been reduced compared with the biennium 1998-1999 and that that positive trend was expected to continue. Special efforts had been made to address the high vacancy rate in the Economic Commission for Africa. The vacancy rates in the Department of Public Information of 4.5 per cent and 2.1 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories and in the General Service and related categories, respectively, were lower than the system-wide average, and full use had been made of the posts in United Nations information centres referred to in General Assembly resolution 52/220. Regarding the new posts approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, information on recruitment was currently being sought from offices away from Headquarters.

32. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) requested that the text of the statement made by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division should be circulated to delegations.

Capital master plan (continued) (A/55/7/Add.4 and A/55/117 and Add.1)

33. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services) recalled that the Secretary-General had prepared the capital master plan on the basis of a comprehensive study comprising a detailed analysis of existing conditions, estimates of the cost of remedial measures under the current reactive approach and estimates of the energy costs which the Organization could expect to incur over the next 25 years. The plan also included "study phase" estimates of the costs of recommended corrective work on various components of the Headquarters complex, such as walls, ceilings, roofs, plumbing, electricity and air conditioning. Wherever specific quantities were known, they had been used in the estimates; wherever they were unknown, lump-sum figures had been used. Although a thorough, building-by-building and system-by-system analysis had been conducted, it did not supply the details that were needed to implement the $1 billion refurbishment programme.

34. As noted in paragraph 5 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/55/7/Add.4), the Secretariat had introduced safeguards into its estimates by assuming a design and planning phase contingency of 20 per cent

of the construction project cost and a standard construction industry contingency of 5 per cent of that cost, for a total safeguard element of 25 per cent. Although the Secretariat was confident that that figure was realistic, it had asked the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services to review the assumptions, and their findings would be taken into account in the schematic design phase.

35. The proposed schematic design, to which the Canadian representative had referred at the Committee's preceding meeting, would not be necessary if the Member States decided to adhere to the current reactive approach instead of adopting the capital master plan. The schematic design was the first step towards the implementation of the plan, or, in the Advisory Committee's view, the first step towards deciding whether or not to adopt the plan. With respect to the content of the schematic design, a conceptual layout of all building systems, including fire alarm, sprinkler, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems, would be developed. That would involve certain choices regarding operational issues, such as whether the Organization should continue to purchase electric power, and the estimation of the cost of each option chosen. Once those extremely detailed assessments had been made, agreement could be reached on whether or not to implement the capital master plan. Even if the Member States decided against the plan after the $8 million for the schematic design had already been spent, that money would not have been completely wasted; about half of the design recommendations would still be valid, while others, such as those on swing space, were specific to the capital master plan. However, it should be borne in mind that the continuation of the reactive approach would involve the expenditure of an enormous amount of money on the same kind of work that would be carried out for the purpose of the schematic design.

36. In reply to the question put by the Canadian representative at the preceding meeting as to whether the cost estimates would remain valid if a decision on the capital master plan was deferred, he said that the estimates were time-sensitive and would be affected by a delay owing to inflation and other factors. It was estimated that deferral of the decision would add about $50 million over the next 25 years to the total cost of the project. The timely implementation of the schematic design was necessary if the Member States were to decide in favour of the capital master plan.

37. **Mr. Lamek** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the importance of the question of the capital master plan was such that it deserved a more extensive debate than the Fifth Committee's programme of work would normally allow.

38. The Headquarters building was 50 years old and it had aged. It no longer met modern safety, security, fire or building standards and much equipment was coming to the end of its natural life. Yet it was an essential part of the Organization's image and was the main focus of its employees' work. Their working conditions should therefore be improved. The piecemeal approach was no longer feasible and an overall renovation plan was urgently required. The capital master plan submitted by the Secretary-General was on an extraordinary scale. The construction costs, if spread over six years, would amount to $964 million. The financial costs, on the basis of interest rates over 25 years at current rates, would amount to $957 million. The renovation could, of course, be partly or fully financed by means of an interest-free loan. In that case, however, the lender or lenders would in fact be underwriting the interest costs. The financial costs and the construction costs were thus more or less the same, giving a total of $1.9 billion, compared with the purely reactive approach of renovating Headquarters bit by bit, which would cost just under $1.2 billion. That was equivalent to the budget for a whole biennium, which underlined the need for a full debate. The European Union welcomed the forthcoming publication by the Joint Inspection Unit of a report on the management of the Headquarters buildings. Innovative solutions should also be explored. The Secretary-General's report raised the possibility of putting up extra buildings which would make it possible to economize on temporary premises while the work was carried out. Such additional buildings might also provide savings on the rental expenses currently borne by the Organization. The Secretary-General proposed that the work should be spread over six years and it would therefore be completed in about 10 years' time. A decision on the proposal should be taken with the help of the study for which approval was being sought. Solutions should be found to keep costs under the agreed limits throughout.

39. The financial arrangements would obviously depend heavily on the host country. The idea of passing the servicing of the debt on a loan through an appropriation account was not, however, in accordance with the principle whereby the permanent functions of the United Nations should be financed out of the regular budget. The European Union doubted whether the "savings" of $354 million under the capital master plan could guarantee a bond issue, as suggested in paragraph 84 of the Secretary-General's report (A/55/117). The "savings" were by no means clear-cut and were similar to the difference in the costs of the reactive approach and the master plan, including energy savings. No amount had, however, yet been budgeted for any of those options and the notion that they could serve as a guarantee was doubtful.

40. The European Union approved in principle of a master plan dealing with the renovation of the Headquarters buildings, which would be discussed when the Committee resumed its work. It therefore supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that studies should continue, at an estimated cost of $8 million. As the Advisory Committee suggested, the studies should consider all aspects, including all the cost elements, the various possible options and the financial mechanisms that would ensure that costs were kept down. The European Union also welcomed the Secretary-General's suggestion that he should establish an advisory group. The success of the enterprise, however, would largely depend on the goodwill and participation of the host country.

41. *Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) resumed the Chair.*

42. **Mr. Hays** (United States of America) said that his Government was proud to have hosted the United Nations Headquarters in New York, an architectural landmark that stood as a symbol of hope for the people of the world. The buildings were, however, ageing and required repair and refurbishment; the Secretary-General's report provided the basis for beginning discussions on a complex and critical project. Because there were significant financial implications for all Member States, all the important questions must be asked and detailed analyses conducted. His Government had therefore started a review of the proposal on its own account. Experts in the financial, construction and management fields would look at all aspects of the plan and compare it to similar projects carried out in the public and private sectors. The Government would be happy to share the results of that examination with the Secretariat and other Member States. With regard to the Secretary-General's request for $8 million to begin preliminary design and cost analyses of the proposals for the project, his delegation would like to receive more information about the timing of such work and what would be produced when it was completed. It would also be grateful to learn about analyses conducted by other Member States and about their own national experiences with major building renovations. It had noted the recent efforts of some delegations to engage experts from the private sector and hoped that that resource would continue to be tapped as deliberations proceeded.

43. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that he appreciated the Secretary-General's report on the capital master plan (A/55/117 and Add.1) and his efforts to bring the matter to the attention of Member States. However, the report did not provide details on the estimated cost and schedule of each step in the process. Further details on the overall implementation schedule and financing plan were needed in order to give Member States a complete picture of the capital master plan. The active participation of the host Government and state and local authorities, inter alia through funding, was essential; in that connection, he shared the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 11 of its report (A/55/7/Add.4). The Committee should not authorize the comprehensive design plan and cost analysis until the General Assembly had given the Secretary-General clear guidance in that regard.

44. **Mr. Tang** Guangting (China) said that the Headquarters buildings, most of which were some 50 years old, did not conform to fire and building codes and did not meet criteria for energy efficiency or modern-day security requirements. The complex was therefore in need of complete refurbishment. A planned and managed method of refurbishment was much better and more far-sighted than an ad hoc method. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that criteria for planning the project should be based on thorough studies, not assumptions. The Secretary-General's next report to the General Assembly should contain more detailed and comprehensive information.

45. The capital master plan involved a gigantic construction project aimed at turning the old Headquarters complex into a modern public service facility that met health standards and modern security needs. If that aim was to be achieved, the project's implementation must be coordinated with the host

Government and local authorities. In formulating and implementing the plan, the Secretary-General should coordinate with the host Government on issues such as energy-saving measures and health guarantees, and should maintain good cooperative relations. He agreed with the Advisory Committee that the plan should not envisage improvements and expansions that would be overly ambitious.

46. With respect to fund-raising, the Secretary-General's report recalled that, 50 years earlier, the host Government had generously provided a $65 million loan, equivalent to $450 million in 2000 dollars, for the original construction. He was pleased to note, from the Advisory Committee's report, that negotiations were under way with the host Government and state and local authorities with a view to obtaining financial support. The Secretary-General should continue to provide progress reports in that regard. He appealed to the host Government and to state and local authorities to provide financial support for that historic project.

47. **Mr. Niwa** (Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services) said that the first step in the Secretary-General's efforts had been to identify the physical condition of the Headquarters complex and the financial consequences of the findings. The Secretary-General had attempted to show that the capital master plan would not only solve the basic problems identified, but also be more cost-effective than the continuation of the reactive approach. Financing costs had not been included in the calculations.

48. The overall analysis of the buildings' condition had been based on 10 detailed assessments which had comprehensively identified necessary remedial measures, energy cost implications and initial estimates of the costs of implementing the capital master plan. The additional details requested by some Member States could not be provided unless the proposed schematic design was prepared. In reply to the question put by the French representative concerning the projected savings of $354 million, he said that that amount represented the energy and emergency repair costs that would be avoided if the capital master plan was implemented for a total of $964 million over six years. Those avoided costs did not represent any kind of guarantee, but they could be used to support the argument that half the total cost of $964 million could be funded through commercial borrowing in the form of a bond issue, while the remainder could be funded through interest-free loans from Member States. Although that proposal would entail interest costs, it would still cost about the same as the reactive approach, which would cost some $1.6 billion over 25 years.

49. In reply to the representative of the United States of America, he said that the $8 million schematic design, if authorized, would take about a year to complete. One component of the cost was the need for dedicated in-house experts to manage the project. The preparation of the schematic design itself would cost about $6 million. A financial feasibility study would be prepared on the benefits and operational implications of the Organization generating its own electric power. Another component was the swing space analysis. Although the Secretary-General's current proposal assumed that swing space would be leased from the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC), various options would have to be examined, precise needs would have to be determined and criteria would have to be established for the selection of swing space. The schematic design would result in estimates that differed from those of the current study phase, since they would take into account the costs of possible electric power upgrades, replacement of the heating and cooling systems, development of a fire safety strategy and information technology facilities back-up. Once the schematic design, product and systems decisions and swing space recommendations had been completed, a final schedule and budget estimates would be produced.

50. In reply to the representative of Japan, he said that the Secretariat believed that the Member States already had enough details to enable them to decide whether or not to pursue the capital master plan. No further information could be provided until the project moved into the schematic design phase, for which the Committee was being asked to approve funding. In preparing the implementation plan, the Secretariat would make use of information from Member States and other international organizations on their experiences with similar large-scale construction projects.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.33/Rev.1: United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (continued)
(A/55/680; A/C.5/55/24; A/C.5/55/L.21)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42: The situation in Central

America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development (*continued*) (A/55/674; A/C.5/55/27; A/C.5/55/L.21)

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1: The critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (*continued*) (A/55/677; A/C.5/55/26; A/C.5/55/L.21)

51. **The Chairman** recalled that, at its preceding meeting, the Committee had decided to defer its decisions on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/55/L.33/Rev.1, A/55/L.42 and A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 pending the issuance of the relevant draft decisions in the six official languages. Those draft decisions appeared in document A/C.5/55/L.21.

52. **Mr. Hassan** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, favoured allowing the adoption of the draft decisions concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/55/L.33/Rev.1, on the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, and A/55/L.42, on the situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development. The programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1, on the critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, however, should be taken up in informal consultations, on the understanding that the other two issues would not be blocked.

53. **Mr. Lenefors** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, concurred. The European Union had no desire to block the adoption of the draft decisions on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/55/L.33/Rev.1 and A/55/L.42, but the situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women required further consideration in informal consultations.

54. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, although his delegation supported all three draft decisions, it noted the flexible stance adopted by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union and could therefore support the suggestion that the situation of the Institute could be considered in informal discussions without implying opposition to the Institute.

55. He thanked the Chairman for his work in ensuring that all documentation appeared in the six working languages, in accordance with the rules of procedure. He trusted that documents would always be issued in all the languages 24 hours before they were taken up.

56. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decisions concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/55/L.33/Rev.1 and A/55/L.42 without a vote. The draft decision concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/55/L.16/Rev.1 would be discussed further.

57. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/55/SR.41

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Summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 18 December 2000, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Rosenthal ..... (Guatemala)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 125: United Nations pension system (*continued*)

Agenda item 121: Pattern of conferences (*continued*)

Agenda item 176: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Revised estimates of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.62: Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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Review of the Information Systems Coordination Committee

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 120: Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.19

1. **Mr. Crom** (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.19 on results-based budgeting, said that the text represented a consensus arrived at during informal consultations. He urged its adoption without a vote.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.19 was adopted.*

3. **Ms. Powles** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Canada and Australia in explanation of position, said that since 1997, when results-based budgeting had first been proposed as part of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the delegations for which she was speaking and others, including those of the Pacific Forum, had expressed strong support for the concept.

4. With the adoption of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to continue to develop indicators of achievement for use in all substantive and support programmes and to include those indicators in all sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, in addition to statements of objectives and expected accomplishments. The performance report for the biennium should also contain an assessment of the performance of the Organization in those terms, in addition to the current method of output measurement. The draft resolution contained references to areas of concern to the Committee, including staff training, the definition of technical terms used, the existence of external factors, the importance of input data, responsibility and accountability, full compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation Rules, and resource allocation commensurate with all programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly.

5. The delegations for which she was speaking looked forward to the implementation of the resolution and would continue to take an active interest in the subject.

6. **Mr. Chandra** (India) said that the fact that the text of the draft resolution was so comprehensive reflected the interest that the concept had generated. The measures it contained would provide a useful management tool. His delegation was pleased by the progress its adoption represented.

7. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that his delegation considered the adoption of the draft resolution a major advance in the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme.

8. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of New Zealand.

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.20

9. **Mr. Crom** (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.20 on outsourcing practices, recommended its adoption without a vote.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.20 was adopted.*

Agenda item 125: United Nations pension system (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.14

11. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.14 on the United Nations pension system, said that, during the informal consultations, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board had been taken into account. He urged the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.14 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Pattern of conferences (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.13

13. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.13, said that it addressed a number of issues relating to the pattern of conferences. He drew attention to section III, which concerned the issue of documentation and attempted to address the root causes of the continued difficulty with the late submission of documentation. Although the Secretariat had made commendable efforts in that area, an additional concerted effort by all stakeholders was still

needed. He urged the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/55/L.13 was adopted.*

Agenda item 176: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (A/55/666, A/55/688)

15. **Mr. Yeo** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) (A/55/666), said that the Security Council, by its resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000, had established UNMEE for an initial period of six months. Subsequently, by its resolution 1320 (2000), the Council had extended its mandate until 15 March 2001 and had authorized the deployment of up to 4,200 troops, including up to 220 military observers.

16. The initial estimate for the establishment of the Mission had been set at $199,075,800 gross, based on the best available information as at 4 December 2000. On 11 December, the Division had given ACABQ updated information which had resulted in a reduction of the estimate to $190.6 million.

17. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMEE was set out in paragraph 48 of the report.

18. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introducing the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/688), said that the Advisory Committee had not had sufficient time to give detailed consideration to the report of the Secretary-General and had therefore made interim recommendations in accordance with the procedure set forth in General Assembly resolution 49/233. Those recommendations were to be found in paragraphs 11 and 12 of its report. In brief, it recommended that the General Assembly should authorize commitment authority of $150 million gross, which should be assessed, and that the Secretary-General should be allowed some flexibility with regard to staffing. Finally, paragraph 10 referred to some elements of concern that would need clarification from the representatives of the Secretary-General.

19. **Mr. Chandra** (India) requested clarification from the Secretariat on why the Advisory Committee had not received the report in time to allow for thorough consideration. He would also like to hear a justification of the structure of the Mission, including senior staff. His delegation concurred with the recommendations in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report of ACABQ.

20. **Mr. Getachew** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia and Eritrea had signed a peace agreement only days earlier and the current discussion further consolidated the implementation of the UNMEE mandate. His delegation fully supported and endorsed the recommendations of ACABQ and hoped for speedy action on the item in order to facilitate the work of the Mission.

21. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia in support of the work and mandate of UNMEE. It commended the recent signing of the peace agreement in Algiers and was impressed by the continuing commitment on the part of the two Governments to their June agreement. The establishment of UNMEE and the extension of its mandate were highly commendable, and his delegation noted the steady progress being made in putting the Mission into operation. However, if the Special Representative of the Secretary-General was to be able to exercise fully his authority, there was an urgent need to finalize and fully deploy the resource requirements arising from the Security Council resolutions.

22. His delegation looked forward to receiving more information on how ACABQ intended to address the areas of concern regarding the structure of the Mission mentioned in paragraph 10 of its report.

23. **Mr. Alatrash** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation was pleased at the progress made in Ethiopia and Eritrea and hoped that peace and security would prevail in those two countries. His delegation asked the Secretariat to explain the reasons for the late submission of the report. It supported the recommendations of ACABQ.

24. **Mr. Yeo** (Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division), responding to the requests for clarification from the representatives of India and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, said that the timing of the submission of funding requests for peacekeeping missions, especially new or expanded ones, depended on when the Security Council adopted the relevant resolution and how quickly the Department could develop assumptions concerning the concept of operations and the funding requirements. Indeed, resolution 49/233 envisaged that

estimates for new missions would fluctuate and be subject to more than one review.

25. In the case of UNMEE, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1312 (2000), on 31 July 2000, the Department had immediately obtained the Advisory Committee's commitment authority for initial funding of up to $50 million to cover the costs of start-up and related requirements. Only after the adoption on 15 September 2000 of resolution 1320 (2000) which specified the authorized staffing strength, could the Department begin to identify troop contributors and determine the feasibility of actual deployments. The Department's initial submission to the Controller's office, towards the end of October, had been based on the understanding that the numbers would keep changing as new information about the situation became available. By the end of November the Department could no longer wait to put the financing of UNMEE on the proper footing and had submitted its report, dated 4 December, to the Advisory Committee. It had endeavoured to make the initial budget as realistic as possible so as to maintain its credibility with the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee, and had informed the Advisory Committee as soon as confirmation had been received of the first deployments, which were now to take place in December rather than November. In any case, the submission of the report late in the session had not had an adverse impact on the Mission or its funding.

Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Revised estimates of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 (A/C.5/55/25 and Corr.1 and Add.1; A/C.5/55/L.22)

26. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that many of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council would be financed from within existing provisions of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. As requested by the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General had for the first time indicated the level of funding for that category; the estimates amounted to $1.8 million in conference services and $33,900 in non-conference services under sections 2 and 22.

27. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/55/25 and Corr.1), additional funds would be required to implement Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/22, which called for the establishment of a permanent 16-member forum on indigenous issues which would hold an annual session of 10 working days. An estimated $114,800 would be needed under section 22 to meet non-conference costs if the forum was held in Geneva and $156,300 if it was to be held in New York. The Advisory Committee agreed with the Secretary-General's recommendation that $114,800 should be authorized for the forum to meet in Geneva in 2001. If it were to meet elsewhere, the additional costs would be reflected in the second performance report. The amount would be governed by the provisions concerning the use and operation of the contingency fund.

28. In its decision 2000/311 the Economic and Social Council had endorsed resolution S-5/1, adopted at the fifth special session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which had established a human rights inquiry commission with respect to the occupied Palestinian territories, requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an urgent visit to the territories, and requested that immediate missions to the territories should be carried out by special rapporteurs who would report their findings to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's estimate for the implementation of the resolution, namely $28,800 under section 2 and $741,600 under section 22 of the budget, to be charged against the contingency fund.

29. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) said that his delegation would require additional time for consultations on the draft decision in section A of document A/C.5/55/L.22.

30. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba) proposed that the text of the draft decision should be amended to indicate that the Committee also approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.62: Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (A/C.5/55/31; A/C.5/55/L.22)

31. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, pursuant to the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Afghanistan (A/55/633-S/2000/1106), the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA) would have a mandate to continue its primary peacemaking role and expand the scope of its activities in 2001. Accordingly, the implementation of draft resolution A/55/L.62 would require the strengthening of the Mission's staffing table by an increase in the authorized number of posts from 78 to 83 and the restoration of two military advisers, bringing the total number of advisers to four. The Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the estimates proposed by the Secretary-General in his statement of programme budget implications (A/C.5/55/31) in the amount of $6,001,500 for 2001, as compared with the $3.3 million appropriated for 2000. An additional amount of $314,100 would be required for 2000. Since the entire $90.4 million authorized by the General Assembly for special missions had already been earmarked, an additional appropriation would be needed amounting to $6,315,600 under section 3 of the budget.

32. *The draft decision in section B of document A/C.5/55/L.22 was adopted.*

Revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/55/7/Add.6; A/C.5/55/30; A/C.5/55/L.22)

33. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Secretary-General had submitted revised estimates totalling $4,162,500 in respect of five political missions (A/C.5/55/30). The Advisory Committee had made observations thereon in paragraphs 4 to 6 of its report (A/55/7/Add.6). Since all the resources authorized for special political missions had already been earmarked, the Advisory Committee recommended an additional appropriation of $4,162,500 under section 3 of the budget.

34. *The draft decision in section C document A/C.5/55/L.22 was adopted.*

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/C.5/55/29, A/C.5/55/L.22)

35. **Mr. Camarena** (Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/55/29), said that the conditions of service and compensation for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, were reviewed every five years. In his report, the Secretary-General sought approval for two recommendations updating earlier decisions of the General Assembly on the conditions of service of the three officials.

36. On the matter of annual compensation, he said that General Assembly resolution 45/249 had set the amount for the two Chairmen at $135,692 plus a special allowance of $8,000 a year. The General Assembly had also established a cost-of-living adjustment procedure whereby 90 per cent of the consumer price index for New York was applied to those salaries, but with a 5-per-cent threshold trigger. Based on that procedure and the movement of the index over the past five years, the compensation of all three officials would be increased by 7 per cent with effect from 1 January 2001. An additional 3.1 per cent increase was recommended by the Secretary-General so as to restore the relationship with respect to annual net remuneration between the two Chairmen and other senior Secretariat officials that had existed at the time of the previous comprehensive review.

37. The Secretary-General further recommended that, since cost-of-living adjustments had been sporadic over the past five years, the 5-per-cent threshold for triggering such adjustments should be eliminated and the annual net compensation for the three officials should instead be adjusted once a year based on 90 per cent of the movement of the consumer price index for New York measured over the period November to November. It was also suggested that the special

allowance payable to the two Chairmen should be increased from $8,000 to $10,000.

38. Those increases would bring the total annual remuneration of the two Chairmen to $159,691 beginning on 1 January 2001. No other changes in conditions of service were being proposed. However, the cost-of-living increase of 7 per cent and the additional 3.1 per cent in remuneration would entail a corresponding adjustment in pensionable remuneration, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/192. The pensionable remuneration of the two Chairmen would be raised from $175,400 to $194,599, and that of the Vice-Chairman of the Commission from $166,950 to $184,174.

39. **Mr. Nelson** (Canada) said that his delegation would prefer that the Committee first decide on the modalities of the International Civil Service Commission and on its recommendations before considering the remuneration of its officials. Accordingly, he proposed that the draft decision in section D of document A/C.5/55/L.22 should be amended by the addition of the words "... with respect to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to defer the decision related to officials of the International Civil Service Commission to a later date".

40. **The Chairman** suggested that consultations should be held to arrive at an agreement on the wording.

41. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, if a draft decision or resolution came before the Committee, his assumption was that consensus had been reached on the text. If delegates had reservations, the time to express them was during informal consultations so that the agreed text could be translated into all official languages and circulated 24 hours in advance.

42. **The Chairman** said that the proposed amendment to the draft decision in section D of document A/C.5/55/L.22 would be translated into all languages, that informal consultations would be held, and that the Committee would revert to the matter at its next formal meeting.

Review of the Information Systems Coordination Committee (A/55/7/Add.3 and A/55/619; A/C.5/55/L.22)

43. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the Secretary-General's recommendation, in paragraph 31 of his report (A/55/619) regarding the continued funding of the United Nations contribution to the Information Systems Coordination Committee for the biennium 2000-2001, drew attention to the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations in paragraph 9 of its report (A/55/7/Add.3).

44. *The draft decision in section E of document A/C.5/55/L.22 was adopted.*

Agenda item 116: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 120: Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: First report: activities of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/55/7; A/C.5/55/L.23)

45. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on its activities during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/55/7), said that part I provided background information, parts II and III dealt with meetings held in New York and meetings held away from Headquarters, and part IV contained observations and conclusions. As was indicated in part IV, during its meetings away from Headquarters, the Committee had focused on a number of key issues, including, in particular, results-based budgeting, human resource reform and training, and cooperation in the field. The annex to the report contained a list of the reports issued by the Advisory Committee. Although the workload had been heavy, the Advisory Committee had managed to report in a timely manner on all the relevant functions and activities.

46. *Draft decision A/C.5/55/L.23 was adopted.*

47. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) pointed out that the General Assembly recommendations contained in the Arabic versions of certain Advisory Committee documents did not appear in bold type, as they did in other language versions. He requested the Chairman to urge the competent bodies to ensure that all language versions reflected the same standard.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.